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Afghanistan

Soviet Withdrawal, Aid—Pakistan has information that Soviet troops will leave Kabul by 4 February, according to a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Islamabad radio. Likewise, Western diplomats in Islamabad said the withdrawal is expected to be completed "almost 10 days ahead of schedule," AFP reported.

Yuriy Maslyukov, a CPSU Politburo candidate member and chairman of GOSPLAN, stated during a meeting in Kabul with President Najibullah that the USSR will provide additional aid aimed at improving Afghanistan's financial situation and providing Kabul and the provinces with essential goods and foodstuffs, TASS reported.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze received the Afghan ambassador to discuss "further cooperation" between the two countries following the Soviet military withdrawal, according to TASS.

Security Situation—The mujahidin destroyed two Afghan Government helicopters in a recent attack on Qandahar airport, Islamabad radio reported. The report added that in Herat Province 2 Afghan Army commanders and 430 militiamen have joined the mujahidin.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Agreement—Leaders of the Amal Movement and Hizballah signed the agreement between the two sides 30 January in the presence of the Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers, SANA reported.

The agency carried the text of the accord, which stipulates that both sides must abide by the cease-fire, end media campaigns, evacuate wounded persons from the combat areas, release detainees, and withdraw from villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah to allow the local inhabitants to return.

Amal and Hizballah will form a coordination committee to organize future relations and will also set up a joint operations room in southern Lebanon to coordinate "resistance" operations against Israel, though each side will retain the right to carry out operations independently.

The agreement states that Amal is "responsible for security in the south" pending the restoration of government authority over all Lebanese territories.

As for the situation in the capital, the agreement views the security of the southern suburb as "part of Beirut's security," adding that the two sides pledge to implement their previous agreement in this regard.

Without mentioning the foreign hostages issue, the agreement says the two sides are committed not to attack UNIFIL or members of international organizations in Lebanon.

In related remarks cited by Damascus radio, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope that all hostages will be released in Lebanon, but he stressed that the Amal-Hizballah accord has nothing to do with the release of hostages.

According to IRNA, Velayati termed the accord a "blessed beginning" for uniting all Islamic and progressive forces against Israel, and he disclosed that Iran is ready to "compensate part of the damages" caused by fighting between the rival Shi'ite groups.

Amal leader Nabih Birri has accepted an invitation from Velayati to visit Tehran, according to Voice of National Resistance radio. Meanwhile, Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an revealed that the persons accused of the September 1988 assassination of three Amal leaders have been handed over to Syrian forces in Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Despite the agreement in Damascus, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported further exchanges of fire between Amal and Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Tunis Talks—The Arab League good offices committee held separate talks with General Michel 'Awn and Salim al-Huss, heads of the rival governments in East and West Beirut, Tunis radio reported. The Kuwaiti foreign minister, the chairman of the committee, told the radio afterward that the different sides "responded well and are eager to secure stability in Lebanon."

ICRC's Return—The International Committee of the Red Cross announced it will resume its activities in Lebanon within 1 week, Beirut radio reported.

Israel

Rabin Plan—Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin revealed that he is willing to change his plan for the territories, according to Jerusalem radio. Instead of making elections conditional on achieving calm beforehand, he is willing to see calm prevail after an agreement is reached on the elections process. However, calm will still be needed to let the elections take place.

Rabin is "encouraged" by reactions of Palestinian notables in the territories to his election plan, Jerusalem television disclosed, adding that few of the notables rejected the plan outright. Reactions of Palestinians of all political tendencies were sounded out recently by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, the report noted.

However, THE JERUSALEM POST subsequently cited a statement by Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni stressing that elections can only take place after an Israeli withdrawal from the territories. Al-Husayni's "clarification" brings his position into line with the PLO, the POST said. Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast a statement 30 January reaffirming the PLO's rejection of elections in the territories before the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Relations With Hungary—A Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed "satisfaction" with Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth's announcement that his country intends to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel this year, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

The spokesman was commenting on Nemeth's disclosure to Vienna television that Hungary intends to normalize relations with Israel by the end of the first 6 months of 1989. Nemeth viewed this as evidence that Hungary makes its own decisions, without having to seek approval from the USSR.

PLO Affairs

The Palestinian leadership will meet 15 February to decide whether or not to postpone the formation of a provisional government, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf disclosed in remarks cited by Kuwait's AL-ANBA'. He noted that there are two trends within the PLO on this issue: one which calls for expediting the formation of a government and another which calls for patience.

Khalaf also expressed "apprehension" that former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger may be tasked with a new mission in the Middle East, though he said the PLO does not intend to boycott Kissinger if he comes to the region.

Iran

Four Tehran radio executives were fired and sentenced to prison terms for broadcasting an "un-Islamic" program which "misportrayed" the mentality of Iranian women, IRNA reported. The program's director received 5 years imprisonment and three others were each sentenced to 4 years imprisonment and 50 lashes. The court said there had been no "malicious intention" on the part of the program's director and staff. IRNA noted that, "paradoxically," the program was produced by the "Islamic ideology group."

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni sent a letter 29 January to Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili offering the "stern advice" that "shortcomings and deviations" in the judicial system should be solved "as quickly as possible," IRNA reported.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani declared that if the United States wants to show goodwill toward Iran it should pay "token compensation" for the victims of the Iranair disaster last July, according to IRNA.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

UN special envoy Jan Eliasson has agreed with Iran and Iraq to resume negotiations "in the first week of next month," according to Western diplomats in Baghdad cited by WAKH. A UN statement issued in Baghdad noted that the United Nations mission "is looking forward to the start of the mixed military commission's work," the agency added.

Libya

The Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic extremists are "agents of America and imperialism" who abuse religion for political purposes, AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR stated in a report carried by TANJUG. The agency viewed this as an indication that Libya will strike mercilessly against such extremists.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf on Kissinger, Syrian Media Campaign

JN311081689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
29 Jan 89 pp 1, 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Salah Khalaf, Fatah's second in command, has expressed apprehension that former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger may come to the region with a plan to contain the current active Palestinian moves. In statements to AL-ANBA', Khalaf denied recent reports on U.S. conditions for the continuation of dialogue with the PLO.

Commenting on reports that U.S. President George Bush has tasked Kissinger with following up the Middle East file with the parties concerned, Salah Khalaf said the PLO does not trust Kissinger because he was behind the idea of the U.S. boycott of the PLO and the idea of separate peace between Israel and Egypt.

Salah Khalaf said the PLO does not intend to boycott Kissinger if he comes to the region but does not feel optimistic about the prospect of having the file of the Middle East cause handed over to Kissinger again.

He added: We deal with facts realistically. If this man returns to the region, we must seriously consider how we should behave and deal with him. Salah Khalaf said he believes that the Bush administration is capable of reactivating the Middle East peace process without giving in to the Israeli provocations designed to impose certain conditions for maintaining the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

Salah Khalaf said he is happy with the United Kingdom's stand toward the PLO, particularly following William Waldegrave's visit to Tunis and his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat.

Khalaf said the PLO is disappointed with France and indignant at the FRG and Belgium which did not fulfill the promises they had made regarding PLO acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Khalaf said Israel will try to deal a violent blow to the uprising in the next few months and it may escalate its operations abroad and resume its terrorist operations against Palestinian leaders.

Khalaf said the Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting on 15 February to decide whether to postpone the formation of a Palestinian government for some time or to ask the PLO Central Council to study its formation, define its relationship with the PLO, and establish its constitutional institutions.

Khalaf said there are two trends within the PLO, the first calls for expediting the formation of such a government to counter the excuses put forth by some countries which have not so far recognized the Palestinian state, while the second trend calls for patience and for better political circumstances.

Khalaf said that Syria has suspended its media campaign against the PLO and has not objected to the dialogue between the Fatah Movement and the Lebanese Amal Movement.

PLO Rejects Elections in West Bank, Gaza

JN3001215489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1926 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has announced the PLO's rejection of the holding of elections in our occupied Palestinian territories before the withdrawal of Israeli forces from those territories.

He said the PLO rejects the holding of elections under the shadow of the Israeli occupation, but will accept elections after the Israeli withdrawal and under the supervison of the United Nations and with the presence of UN forces. Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman added that this is not the position of the PLO alone, but that of all the Palestinians.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian studies center in occupied Jerusalem, who was released by the Israeli authorities yesterday, had announced his rejection of any Israeli plans in the occupied Palestinian territories that do not include the establishment of a Palestinian state.

PNC Speaker Comments on Palestinian Affairs

JN3001094889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
30 Jan 89 p 16

[Interview with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What are the real justifications for establishing a Palestinian state?

Answer: When the PNC issued a decision declaring the Palestinian state on Palestinian territory, that decision was the result of a realistic study of the existing situation on the land of Palestine, especially after Jordan had taken its well-known step to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

Following that step, the Palestinian territory under occupation became without actual sovereignty. And as we all know, the occupation authority does not have the legal right to acquire sovereignty over a land it occupies.

Thus, the Palestinian leadership felt that it had to take immediate action to declare the Palestinian state on Palestinian territory and then to work for exercising this sovereignty over that state.

This has been a source of joy and pleasure for us, because we have pursued the course which should lead to repatriation to our homeland and reunion with our struggler people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

These, in short, are the motives which prompted the establishment of an independent state which would lead to Arab and Islamic Palestine, God willing. [passage omitted]

Question: If Israel continues to reject the idea of holding the international peace conference, is there any other idea for solving this question, say, through direct negotiations?

Answer: To say that any individual can decide now what the next step will be is not correct. What is correct, however, is that the issue must return to the representatives of the people in the PNC who will decide what next step should be taken by the Palestinian leadership.

Question: What role do the strugglers in the occupied Arab territory play in your moves?

Answer: Our relationship with those strugglers is firm. We cannot do anything of which they do not approve. They also do not do anything without the approval of the Palestinian leadership. We are in constant touch and the interest of the Palestine quesion is our common objective.

Question: The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement holds a different view on the Palestinian moves. This is clear from the movement's position during the PNC session and also from the statements it is issuing inside Palestine.

Do you subscribe to the opinion that the Hamas and PLO leaderships are in dispute and that Hamas does not approve of the PLO's current trends?

Answer: This is an important question. To be honest, Hamas has an important and prominent role. It also has its own trend. But, frankly, Hamas' objective is to regain the whole of Palestine as a natural right. However, it is not correct that Hamas issues statements that conflict with the PLO's stands. There is no conflict with the Islamic movement.

In its Communique No 32, Hamas said it is against sectarianism and any split among the Palestinians. Hamas also calls for the unification of all efforts against the Zionist enemy until the occupation is removed. Once the occupation is removed and an independent state is established, there would be democracy, where the opinion of the majority would prevail over the opinion of the minority. In such a situation, the minority would have to accept the opinion of the majority and the latter would have to respect the minitory.

Question: Are there any contacts with the dissident groups in Syria and elsewhere?

Answer: There are no contacts with the dissident groups in Syria or elsewhere. However, the contacts continue with those groups which have returned to our legitimate institutions—the PNC, the Central Council, and the Executive Committee—and continued to exercise their right it represent the Palestinian people.

As for those who have chosen to differ and to dissent, we say that while we do not object to anyone differing with us, we are against anyone dissenting; that is staying outside the legitimate institutions. He who wants to differ with us within the institutions is most welcome and we will respect his opinion. This is the type of democracy we are proud to exercise within our institutions.

Question: The boundaries of the independent Palestinian state have so far not been officially announced. Arab readers everywhere would like to hear somthing on these boundaries?

Answer: We cannot speak about the boundaries of our homeland unless this is based on actual recognition of our state, people, and right to exist.

Israel has been established, yet it has not mentioned its boundaries. Even now, Israel wants the whole of Palestine and we want the whole of Palestine. Therefore, the question calls for a detailed discussion on the basis of a decision made by an effective and authoritative international conference to consider all the resolutions that have been issued by the United Nations. The conference should make its decision and tell both parties: This is the correct course to follow.

As for announcing the boundaries now, this is still premature. But if you want my personal opinion, then I say: Israel, which is an invader, says the whole of Palestine belongs to it. So what prevents us, the people who owned the land before Israel was established, from saying the same thing? The talk about boundaries is still premature.

But if an international peace conference is convened and negotiations are held under the UN flag, then it would be possible to say that what is agreed by the two negotiating sides will be acceptable to us. We will accept the boundaries that are determined by the international conference.

Question: We have heard about the formation of a Palestinian government. How true is that and when will the government be announced officially and will the mayors in the occupied territory have a role in this government?

Answer: Not all that is being published in the press is correct and accurate. The subject of the government was indeed tackled in the PNC resolutions in Algiers. Those resolutions said that a government would be formed and that the Central Council and the Executive Committee would discuss the subject, approve it, and then refer it to the PNC when the political circumstances are opportune.

Who says that the political circumstances are opportune? The agreement was that the Executive Committee would work out the general outlines and then submit the matter to the PNC. So this does not mean that the government has been decided.

The PNC resolutions stipulate that the government shall be made up of Palestinian leaders and figures from inside and outside the homeland. How can we include mayors and other figures from the occupied territory while the occupation still exists? If the occupation continues and the international conference is not held, it would be premature to talk about the government.

Therefore, in his last statement, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that the subject of the government has been deferred to a later date until the substance of the PNC resolution is achieved, that is, until the political conditions and circumstances become opportune.

I say that when the PLO begins to take serious steps toward convening the international peace conference, Israel, for instance, would say: I want a Palestinian government to negotiate with. Therefore, when the conditions become opportune and the PNC decides that it is time to form the government, the Executive Committee will be called upon to form this government, which will have to appear before the PNC for a vote of confidence.

If the government does not get this vote then it will cease to exist. So everything is still premature and the press reports about the selection of 16 personalities are mere conjectures which are not based on a serious stand or decision.

Question: 'Arafat and a Palestinian delegation will visit Syria. How far have contacts with Syria reached on that?

Answer: The visit stands. A Palestinian delegation will visit Syria to meet with the Syrian leadership. Yes, there are contacts with the Syrians and this confirms the resolutions of the PNC, the Executive Committee, and others; namely, we cannot do without Syria. It is in our interest to cooperate with all Arab countries and achieve Arab solidarity. We do not want anyone to remain outside this solidarity. We do not deny Syria's role. Therefore, what has been said about the visit of a Palestinian delegation to Syria is true. But this delegation will discuss the possibility of 'Arafat's visit to Syria and will prepare for it. I consider the Palestine question as the issue unifying all Arab trends, because the Zionist danger not only threatens Palestinians but all Arabs without any exception. That is why this requires continued contacts and understanding to overcome obstacles standing in the way of this goal. [passage omitted]

Question: In a statement, Bush said: I advise the Palestinians to establish a confederation with Jordan before establishing their Palestinian state.

Answer: I believe that what Bush is saying is not precise, because a confederation with Jordan can only be established within the context of two independent states. Palestine is not independent yet and when it becomes independent, this can be discussed.

The confederation with Jordan is also not a subject of disagreement, because it has been approved at more than one summit conference. So we have stressed the establishment of a confederation with Jordan on several occasions. There is no controversy over that.

How can we set up such a confederation when Jordan is exercising sovereignty over its land, whereas the Palestinian people are living in the diaspora and have no land?

Yes, they proclaimed the establishment of their state, but they have not yet exercised their sovereignty over it and the state is not actually established yet. After the establishment of the state, confederation with Jordan can be achieved. [passage omitted]

Question: The United States wants Israel to have a calm security situation to enable it to enter the peace negotiations. It also set other conditions such as ending the uprising? Has the PLO tackled this demand and can it be approved?

Answer: I say frankly that the Palestinian leadership has adopted an irreversible decision. Stopping the uprising before achieving its objectives is impossible. I cannot possibly imagine that or even adopt a decision on this issue, because nobody can— as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said—dominate or stop the uprising. It is the desire of an oppressed people who are still living under oppression.

The uprising will continue until the Palestinian people achieve their goal which is freedom. I believe any proposal on halting the uprising is unthinkable either on the part of the Unified Leadership of the Uprising or the PLO leadership or any other party. [passage omitted]

Question: Before ending his term in the U.S. State Department, Shultz said that he did not trust 'Arafat. What is your comment?

Answer: If he did not trust 'Arafat, then 'Arafat also did not trust him. But the differene between the two is that 'Arafat has proved that he is the leader of the Palestinian people and that this people outside and inside the occupied territory believe in his leadership and trust his capability to run the conflict.

We hope the United States under Bush will achieve a balance in its relations with the Arab people and Israel. We observe that the new leadership is taking new steps to prove it is not biased toward Israel. But its excuse is that it has only been in office for a day.

We hope the new U.S. Aadministration will prove in the coming days that it has benefited from its experience when Bush was vice president to the former president. We hope he will take reasonable and balanced steps that will achieve world peace and security which will also be enjoyed by the Palestinian Arab people and that he will restore Palestinian rights as approved by international legitimacy so that the Palestinian people will enjoy the right to self-determination which is acknowledged by international legitimacy and the UN charter.

Question: Do you believe that the international conference will be held during the current year and are you optimistic about this?

Answer: I am optimistic that it will be held. It must be held and I hope it will be, but it is connected with the United States. If it can prove its evenhandedness and respond to the desires of the international community in bringing about peace and security in this world, then I believe an international conference can be held. If the United States exerts pressure on Israel, an international conference will be convened and its results will be good.

Question: What if the United States disappoints us and does not respond?

Answer: If it does not respond, we will go back to the PNC to tell the Palestinian Arab people that this is what we have done and this is what the United States has done. What do you think? Then the Palestinian people will deal with their destiny within the context of their interest and their cause. They will decide what they deem is appropriate.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Receives PLO's 'Arafat

LD3001184489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Today brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces, was received by Algerian President Brother Chadli Bendjedid. According to an informed Palestinian source, brother Abu 'Ammar's talks with the Algerian president dealt with the latest developments of the Palestinian question and the prospects of Palestinian moves in the international arena toward a just peace. The source added that the Algerian-Palestinian talks also dealt with the Arab situation in general and the moves toward holding an Arab summit as soon as possible.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar arrived this afternoon in Algiers on a short visit, accompanied by an important Palestinian delegation.

In a short statement to journalists, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said this visit falls within the continuous consultation and coordination between the Algerian and the Palestinian leaderships to deal with all developments in the Palestinian scene and to support our people's persistent intifadah.

Egypt

Israel's Weizman on Negotiations With PLO

NC3001204089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Political circles in Cairo have received an assurance from 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of science and research, that he believes it is necessary to hold negotiations with the PLO in the aftermath of its new stand and the acceptance of this stand by the United States.

MENA has learned that Weizman expressed his belief that the Israeli public will ultimately accept negotiations with the PLO, although he pointed out that this will take some time. Weizman said that he personally does not fear talking to Yasir 'Arafat because he is the PLO chairman and leader of the uprising.

The Israeli minister stressed that anyone in Israel who believes that it is possible to reach an agreement with local leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is under an illusion. Therefore, he said, it is necessary to take a short cut and speak to the PLO.

Israel's Non-Implementation of Tabah Cited

NC3001160089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will hold an important round of talks tomorrow with Abraham Sofaer, head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, in an attempt to overcome the points of difference between Egypt and Israel over the implementation of the international tribunal's ruling on Egypt's resumption of its full sovereignty over Tabah.

MENA has learned that Egypt is awaiting a specific reply on the withdrawal from Tabah in implementation of the agreement signed between Egypt and Israel and also in implementation of the international tribunal's ruling. Egypt is also demanding that Israel submit a timetable for the phases of the withdrawal.

Egypt's stand adheres to Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah on the premise that the principle of its sovereignty over Tabah was established before and after the tribunal's ruling. This sovereignty does not need any proof or reconfirmation, as Tabah is Egyptian and part of the motherland. Egypt accepts no infringement whatsoever of its sovereignty over its soil, and this principle is well known to the United States and Israel.

MENA has also learned that Israel's attempts to put obstacles in the way of its implementation of the Rome agreement and its non-implementation of the arbitration tribunal's ruling have been met by Egyptian insistence on two principles. The first of these is absolute Egyptian sovereignty, which must not be infringed upon, and the second is the need for an Israeli withdrawal not linked to current negotiations on the question of compensations for the hotel and the other tourist installations, the question of the entry of tourist groups, or the question of extending the borderline from mark 91 to the Gulf.

An informed source at the Foreign Ministry expects the U.S. envoy to bring with him clear and specific answers from the Israeli side regarding Egypt's demands.

It is worth mentioning that on 13 January Egypt informed the arbitration tribunal that there are problems obstructing the implementation of the tribunal's ruling and that in accordance with the arbitral compromise the arbitration panel continues to exist until the ruling is implemented.

USSR To Finance 5-Year Plan Projects

JN2801213089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Egypt will resort to the USSR to finance most of the projects included in the 3d year of the second 5-year plan (1989/1990), particularly in the industrial fields and energy.

The volume of economic and trade cooperation is expected to reach 3 billion [Egyptian] pounds this year, after Cairo and Moscow reached an agreement on increasing the price of the accounting pound sterling to 300 piasters.

Mubarak, Ugandan President Hold Talks

NC2801185289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his wife arrived in Cairo tonight while en route to London. They were received at Cairo airport by President and Mrs Husni Mubarak; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Eng 'Isam Radi, minister of works and water resources.

The two presidents held a short round of talks at the airport's presidential lounge, during which they exchanged views on international and regional issues of concern to Egypt and Uganda.

Nigerian President Babangida on 3-Day Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC2901132989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

He was met at the airport by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Attends Dinner Banquet

NC2901201889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1849 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a dinner banquet this evening at the presidential palace in Heliopolis in honor of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida and the delegation accompanying him.

President Mubarak delivered a speech at the banquet in which he welcomed the distinguished African leader. The text of President Mubarak's speech follows:

Dear Brother and Friend Ibrahim Babangida, brothers and friends:

We meet today with a dear friend from a fraternal African country with which we maintain the strongest and deepest ties. We also remember our close relations with it throughout our long history.

We in Egypt view your fraternal country in its capacity as a basic African force and admire its present and future role. It is an important pillar of joint African action and of the Nonaligned Movement, and an ally which has stood with us honestly and sincerely in the various legitimate battles which we have waged for the sake of justice and right.

We also appreciate your excellency's role in leading the march of the fraternal Nigerian people, with whom we maintain the closest cultural and spiritual ties. We look forward to further accomplishments in the field of economic and social development under your leadership. We are confident that the steps which you will take in this respect to enhance our ability to confront the difficult challenges which face us in this important stage of growth and development will be successful.

I had the pleasure of visiting your country during the second extraordinary session of the presidents of the African countries in April 1980 and to meet with you in Addis Ababa last May on the occasion of the 24th African summit conference. I had the opportunity to appreciate at close range the extent of your solid commitment to the true spirit of African unity and the noble aims of our organization, your eagerness to strengthen ties with all African states, and your appreciation of the importance of buttressing the special relations between our two fraternal countries.

President Mubarak said in his speech: We work with you fully determined to strengthen the united African stand in the face of the apartheid forces in South Africa. We struggle with all our power in support of our brothers in southern Africa in their struggle for justice, freedom, and equality and against repression and exploitation. Based on our numerous experiences, we realize that it is necessasry to freely pursue our struggle and to employ all the means and methods that could lead to the realization of our goals.

Therefore, we welcome the agreement that was reached in Brazzaville on 13 December, and extend greetings to the great Namibian people, who have given the most splendid example of awareness and the ability to struggle and to win comprehensive international support. It is our duty to prepare the suitable circumstances under which they can express their independent will and free choice. This requires the maintenance of an effective presence of UN forces in Nambia until these struggling people can exercise their sovereignty over their land.

Meanwhile, we are working together to unify the African efforts which aim to confront the grave economic problems that threaten to obstruct our march on the road of development and progress. I would like to mention here the problem of African debts, which represents a serious threat to all of the efforts we are exerting for the sake of development and economic reform. It pleases me to point out in this regard that, since its first meeting in March 1989, the Lagos club [muntada] has continuously shown concern about this problem.

We hope that that body's next meeting will adopt an effective, supportive stand for the unified African move which will constitute a nucleus of a firm stand which the Third World countries will adopt to create a heightened international understanding of our right to settle this problem in a manner that guarantees our just rights and legitimate interests.

Brothers and dear friends, we are happy today to receive President Babangida and all of you. We actually have started amicable talks about the problems in Africa and the Middle East, which are subjects of our common interests. We will have the opportunity to discuss these problems further in the next few days. Together we will discuss the means to consoldiate bilateral cooperation in all domains in the interest of our two peoples.

Allow me to ask you to stand to salute our dear friend President Babangida; our brothers, the sons of fraternal Nigeria who are present here among us; the rest of this noble people; and the special ties between the two countries and peoples. May peace and God's blessing be upon you.

The Nigerian president then delivered a speech in which he thanked President Mubarak for inviting him to Egypt, which he described as a citadel of civilization and a center of support for the steadfastness of the African peoples.

President Babangida praised the historic and excellent relations between Egypt and Nigeria, and the bilateral cooperation in all fields, especially with regard to culture and technology.

The Nigerian president commended Egypt's role in extending aid to Nigeria in all fields, especially during Nigeria's crisis between 1967 and 1970. He said that Nigeria's crisis would not have ended were it not for the aid that Egypt had provided at that time.

In his speech, the Nigerian president expressed the conviction that Egypt and Nigeria can play a leading role in supporting the African peoples' economy. He praised Egypt's pioneering role in establishing the Nonaligned Movement and the OAU, and in supporting the African liberation movements.

The Nigerian president lauded President Mubarak's efforts and his wise policy that has led to the realization of a high level of economic progress and self-reliance in a very short period.

Holds Meeting With Mubarak

NC3001163689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida held a 1-hour private meeting today. The two presidents were later joined by members of the Egyptian and Nigerian delegations, he added, noting that the two presidents discussed several issues relating to bilateral relations in the field of production.

They agreed to set up joint agricultural and industrial projects and to exchange expertise in a number of domains, he added. He noted that the Nigerian president will visit several Egyptian agricultural and inudstrial firms in the next 2 days to see the prospects for increasing bilateral cooperation in these two fields.

Dr al-Baz added that Presidents Mubarak and Babangida also discussed important African issues, particularly the situation in southern Africa in light of the agreement reached in Brazzaville and endorsed in New York. He added that it had become clear that the two presidents would like the United Nations to maintain a strong role in this regard until Namibia's independence is achieved.

Al-Baz pointed out that the two presidents discussed the issue of indebtedness in Africa and the need to reach a new understanding among the debtor and creditor countries that does not involve only Africa's poorest countries but all the African debtor countries. The two presidents, he added, stressed that new arrangements should be made under which a portion of the debts would be written off and the repayment of the remaining debts postponed, so that the African states could keep up the development process.

Al-Baz noted that Presidents Mubarak and Babangida discussed some of the issues to be taken up at the next African summit, both those connected with organizational matters and those relating to political and economic topics in Africa.

The director of the President's Office for Political Affairs said that Presidents Mubarak and Babangida will exert the utmost efforts to bring about reconciliation among the African states and eliminate any differences among them, whether in the Horn of Africa, western Africa, or southern Africa.

Dr al-Baz added that President Mubarak briefed the Nigerian president on recent developments and Egypt's views on future moves with regard to the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that Nigeria, in its capacity as one of the influential states in West Africa, has huge human and agricultural potential. It is a basic member of OPEC and its production and export policy is very important.

Al-Baz said that through the establishment of joint projects and the conclusion of equal trading arrangements and the exchange of expertise, the results could be fruitful for both countries. For this reason, the two presidents issued instructions to the officials today to expand cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Dr Usamah al-Baz stated that the Nigerian president has invited President Mubarak to visit Nigeria and that President Mubarak has accepted the invitation.

Dr al-Baz characterized the Nigerian president's visit as successful, adding that it will have good effects on future bilateral relations.

Responding to a question about Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah and whether the arbitration panel's decision was related to the question of Egypt's sovereignty, Dr al-Baz said that the subject of Egypt's sovereignty was not an issue with regard to the Tabah negotiations, but that the securing of the sites of the border markers, including marker 91, was raised. Since the arbitration panel defined and rectified the sites of the markers, this subject is regarded as settled, he said.

He stated that sovereignty was not a subject of debate because Egyptian territory is under Egyptian sovereignty, according to the defined marker. Therefore, we have never said that we seek the restoration of sovereignty over Tabah since sovereignty over it has always existed. We say that what we seek to achieve and what will be achieved is the restoration of control in the exercise of sovereignty, he declared.

Asked about King Husayn's statement yesterday that the Palestinian issue will witness positive developments in the coming 2 months, Dr al-Baz expressed the hope that all factors will lead to progress in the Palestinian issue, be they Palestinian, Arab, or international, and including the United States' activity, the dialogue between the two superpowers, moves by the European states, and the situation within Israel.

Al-Baz noted that it is hoped agreement on convening an international peace conference will gradually be reached, but he explained that it is difficult to set a fixed date for achieving such progress. He said: We are acting on the basis that in the coming few weeks the U.S. Administration will arrange its papers and revise its priorities.

Moreover, the situation in Israel will become more mature in the sense that the Israeli people and politicians will realize that the alternative plans which they are putting forward and which deviate from world unanimity will lead nowhere.

Dr al-Baz noted that the alternative plans which are being floated by Israeli politicians are essentially based on holding elections in the West Bank and arriving at an interim settlement based on weak autonomy. Later on, another round of negotiations would be held in which the PLO, or the PLO and Jordan, or Jordan alone would participate.

Dr al-Baz stressed that the Israeli ideas will produce no results concerning the achievement of peace in the region. He indicated that efforts should be concentrated on convening an international conference because this is the method accepted by the whole international community to achieve peace in the region.

Dr al-Baz stated that progress could be achieved in the coming period, especially if the Paletinian stand remains strong and firm as it is now, if it becomes clear to the whole world that this stand is strategic and not tactical, if Arab support for this Palestinian stand remains firm, and if no terrorist acts which can be attributed to the PLO take place.

Asked about the four-state economic grouping, Dr al-Baz noted that this grouping essentially aims at increasing cooperation among these states, which have higher joint committees between them.

He noted that the grouping of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and North Yemen is not a bloc which is closed to others, but is open to any Arab state that wishes to join. Through this cooperation we aim to strengthen and consolidate unified Arab action and to strengthen its institutions, including the Arab League, he stated. He noted that the prime ministers of the four states of the Arab economic grouping might meet in the near future.

Families of Slain Israelis To Be Compensated

NC3001140989 Paris AFP in English 1358 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 30 (AFP)—Egypt will compensate the families of seven Israeli civilians shot dead by an Egyptian policeman in the Sinai Peninsula in 1985, Foreign Ministry sources said here Monday.

The policeman, Sulayman Khatir, 25, opened fire—under circumstances that were never made clear—on a group of Israeli tourists who had crossed into a military zone under his jurisdiction at Ra's Burqa' in the southern Sinai. Seven tourists were killed.

Condemned to life at hard labour, he was found hanging by a sheet in a prison infirmary on January 7, 1986. Medical authorities ruled his death a suicide.

Egypt had "recognized its responsibility" in the deaths of the Israelis and agreed to financial compensation, Foreign Ministry sources said, without disclosing the amount to be offered.

Wafd Involvement in Lawyers Incident Denied

JN2601211189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Article by Mustafa Shardi: "Who Will Pay the Price Following the Incidents at the Lawyers Association?"]

[Text] Because the Wafd Party adopts a completely neutral stand toward the crisis which is violently shaking the Lawyers Association, I write this article in my own name, as an Egyptian citizen who is greatly interested in maintaining calm and stability in the Lawyers Association, especially since it is the biggest fortress of freedom and defending the Egyptians' rights, taking into consideration that all its men, regardless of their different political and ideological affiliations, realize that they stand in one trench, and constitute one of the most important shields that supports the Egyptian citizen's struggle for freedom and for regaining his legitimate constitutional will and rights.

In fact, I do not exaggerate if I say that the Lawyers Association, including its men and youths throughout Egypt, is the only shield that is left for this nation, in whose firmness and support for free men we have confidence, no matter how strong the blowing of the storm or the noise of thunder.

This is my view about the Egyptian lawyers and their deep-rooted association. I have full confidence in their sincerity and true patriotism. In light of this view, I feel afraid because I see knives are stabbing the association from all directions. At the same time, I am astonished to see the conflict among the comrades of the one trench over transitory positions, and even over a mirage, settling old accounts without realizing the consequences of developments and results.

What is really strange are those cheap and false accusations against the Wafd Party, voices which seek to disseminate false lies to the effect that the Wafd Party is the side that planned what occurred at the Lawyers Association, or which claims that the Wafd Party has followed up the incidents while being satisfied with this serious split. In fact, the Wafd leaderships, headed by Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, were the side that was pained the most and regretted what occurred at the Lawyers Association.

Although I am not interested in what was written by some informants who have posts in the government newspapers, particularly the despicable reports published by a well-known government magazine, which is chaired by an informant to the secret police of the worst type, and who caused its distribution to sink to the bottom—although I am not interested in this, I cannot disregard the stand of the newspaper AL-SHA'B, organ of the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood.

The newspaper AL-SHA'B said that the Muslim Brotherhood is on the side of legitimacy and of Ahmad al-Khawajah, head of the Lawyers Association. This is a sound stand. However, the paper published a report on the third page, whose false lines were full of deadly poison. The report attempted to encroach on the Wafd leaderships in one way or another. It tried to accuse the Wafd of being connected with the Lawyers Association incidents.

I seek the permission of Wafd leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din to speak about the details related to what took place at the Lawyers Association, so that bright facts can check falsehood. The beginning of the incidents came as a surprise to the Wafd leader and to us all. When I reported to him the first day's incidents, he instructed me that AL-WAFD newspaper should remain completely neutral in its coverage without expressing any opinion or supporting any side against the other.

I believe that the reader is our witness that we have dealt accurately and fairly with the incidents' development. This is why I wrote an article expressing my own belief. I believe that the Wafd Party also strongly believes that any encroachment on the law is rejected, that any attempt to change things through violence is rejected, and that ignoring the lawyers' will is also rejected.

This is because we are a party whose principles, which constitute its backbone, are always on the side of legitimacy and free change through ballot boxes. Therefore, how can we relinquish these principles regarding an emergency crisis? How can this accusation come from those who do not believe in democratic elections and do not respect the ballot box which represents the nation's will?

What stopped me from completing the article is my concern about being neutral, and about adhering to the party's stance toward the crisis. I believe that the way the newspaper AL-WAFD has dealt with the Lawyers Association incidents has emphasized the party's stand, which the newspaper is honored to be affiliated with, to represent, and to be guided by its principles.

Some might say: We fully believe that the Wafd had no connection with these events, but, at least, it could have stopped them when they began and prevented them from reaching that state of deterioration.

This may be true because most of those involved in the dispute on both sides are Wafd men and members of its Higher Committee. This association dispute is very old and resulted from an accumulation of disputes usually witnessed during elections. A few months ago, Fu'ad Saraj al-Din tried to cleanse the atmosphere, reconcile association members, and end these disputes once and for all. However, the head of the Lawyers Association, Ahmad al-Khawajah, thought that this constituted an "intervention" by the Wafd in the association and declared his rejection of it. He said: The Lawyers Association is a national one and will not accept intervention from any party in its internal affairs.

Immediately, it was necessary to respect the head of the Lawyers Association's opinion, and the Wafd leader halted his efforts and contented himself with drawing the attention of those involved in the dispute to keeping their association differences out of the party's activities. Fu'ad Saraj al-Din decided to give the head of the association and the association council a full opportunity to settle the disputes.

Here, it is our right to say: O God, if we try to end the differences, we will be accused of intervening in the Lawyers Association's affairs. If we stop, we will be accused of letting differences escalate until an explosion.

The newspaper AL-SHA'B then claims that Fua'd Saraj al-Din has prevented a discussion of what was taking place in the association during the second meeting of the Wafd Party Higher Committee. This is an unfounded allegation because the Wafd leader actually prevented raising this subject when one of the members suggested it during the first meeting of the Higher Committee after it was elected and before the recent critical developments. This was also due to the fact that this was an association crisis and had no connection with the party.

This prevention did not amount to an order from Saraj al-Din but was a tendency approved by the Higher Committee because the presentation of that issue would have meant transferring very old, sharp, and complicated association differences to the Higher Committee's discussions. This would have also meant wasting precious time in many sessions while the agenda was full of items on Egypt's internal affairs and the Sudan issue, especially since the Higher Committee includes members of both sides, of whom four are supporters of the head of the Lawyers Association, Ahmad al-Khawajah, and two are supporters of Ahmad Nasir. In that case, how could the party support one side over the other?

Additionally, I say: I suppose that during its first meeting, the Wafd Higher Committee discussed the disputes in the Lawyers Association, although this issue is far from its specialty. I would also suppose that it failed to contain these disputes in view of the presence of outside parties. Then, is the Wafd safe from the accusation that it intervened in a matter that did not concern it and that its intervention was harmful and led to the regrettable, painful events, which we all followed with sadness and denunciation.

Saraj al-Din does not impose an opinion or prevent any discussions, as claimed by the Labor Party's newspaper. In his speech during the new Higher Committee's first session, he said, verbatim: I warn you against approving any subject without being fully convinced. Here, we discuss major national issues in which no opinion can be imposed. If, one day, you feel that I am trying to impose an opinion on you, remove me from this place and kick me out of this hall.

By responding to the lies published by the newspaper AL-SHA'B and some government newspapers, I do not try to defend the Wafd's democracy or the Wafd leader's respect for it. The aim is to explain to the people the reasons behind that "psychological complex" afflicting some parties, including the ruling party, as a result of the democratic course pursued by the Wafd party. It is not our fault that things in the NDP are conducted through strict directives and instructions without any single leadership having the courage to object. It is also not our fault if another party is torn by its internal differences and subjected to critical accusations. We do not want to say any more.

We reject and denounce what had happened at the Lawyers Association. If we have observed neutrality in publishing from the beginning, then last Monday's events, which resulted in storming the association, will make us declare our decisive rejection and strong denunciation. All those who took part in these events, from both sides, will know how much they harmed their association by such behavior and deprived Egypt of one of the most important fortresses for defending the freedom of Egyptians.

Libya

'Islamic Extremists' Will Be Struck 'Mercilessly'

LD3001193689 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1837 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Jan 30 (TANJUG)—Libya said it will strike mercilessly against Muslim Brotherhood and Wahabbite Islamic extremists, accusing them of abusing religion for political purposes, a violation tantamount to high treason in this country.

The interpreter of official policy and the organ of the revolutionary committees, the GREEN MARCH, today devotes half its space to an attack on these extremists, branding them as "agents of America and imperialism".

The newspaper claims Libya's authorities have firm evidence on the strength of which they will uncover these "religious intruders" who are blamed for violent acts in eastern Libya, especially around the towns of Banghazi, Ajdabiya and al-Kufrah.

The GREEN MARCH says the extremists are an instrument of a "planned conspiracy by American and western intelligence service" aimed at causing "conflicts, chaos and political turmoil" in the country.

The opposition activity of these extremist groups develops under the guise of preservation of authentic Islam and criticism of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's Islamic concept of religious modernisation.

The Libyan leadership views this as the "use of religion for political purposes", a charge that took a group of Jihad (holy war) extremists to the gallows in 1986.

Gorbachev Congratulated on Space Mission

LD3001173189 Tripoli JANA in English 1455 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has sent congratulations to Mr. M. Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party on the success achieved by the Soviet scientific spacecraft by going into orbit around Mars.

This craft named Phobos reached this orbit after its six-month trip.

Malian President Moussa Traore Visits

Arrives 30 Jan

LD3001201189 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Gulf of Defiance, Ay al-Nar [January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Moussa Traore of the Republic of Mali and the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) arrived at the Gulf of Defiance Municipality at noon today on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

A big official and popular welcoming ceremony was held when the leader of the revolution was heading the ceremony.

Taking part were: the secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, the secretaries and members of the People's Committee, the secretary of the Basic People's Congresses in the municipality, a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, large crowd of the Basic People's Congresses, the heads of the diplomatic missions accreditted to Great Jamahiriyah and the ambassador and staff at Mali's Embassy to Great Jamahiriyah.

As President Traore descended from the aircraft he was embraced warmly by the leader of the revolution in a way that expressed the spirit of African solidarity. After that, the president of Mali, accompanied by the leader inspected the guard of honour who had lined up to salute them.

President Moussa Traore gave a statement to JANA expressing his thanks and appreciation for the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the revolution for the warm brotherly welcome and reception he and his entourage have received on arrival at the Gulf of Defiance Municipality.

The president of Mali pointed out that his visit to Great Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of the good and outstanding relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Mali and also within the framework of OAU to discuss current international and African issues with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Accompanying President Moussa Traore is a delegation which includes Modibo Keita the foreign minister, Angelo Traore the director of the Presidential Office and Sheikh Sese, the director-general for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD3001201489 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Sirat, Ay al-Nar [January] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This evening a meeting was held between the leader of the revolution and President Moussa Traore of the Republic of Mali and the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau and Modibo Keita the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation in the Republic of Mali.

Mauritania

Taya Receives Message From Senegal's Diouf

AB3001142389 Paris AFP in French 1107 GMT GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 30 Jan (AFP)—The Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, yesterday received the Senegalese ambassador to Nouakchott, who delivered a message from the Senegalese president, Abdou Diouf. This was learned from an official source in the Mauritanian capital.

The message, whose contents were not disclosed by the ambassador, constitutes the first official contact between the two countries since their recent economic dispute which led to the suspension a month ago of the importation of certain products into each other's country.

Sudan

State Council Discusses Al-Nasir Evacuation

EA3001191789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] At the People's Palace today members of the State Council met Major General Fathi Ahmad Ali, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The security situation in the south following the Armed Forces' withdrawal from Al-Nasir was discussed. The commander (?distributed) a report on the Armed Forces' stand at Al-Nasir.

'Comprehensive Plan' To Retake Nasir Drafted

EA3001212989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The head of state's council issued today the following statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The recapture of Al-Nasir is one of the basic stages in the peace process because the essence of peace is national dignity. For this reason the head of state's council has drawn up a comprehensive plan to mobilize all the national efforts for full continuation [as heard] of the

Armed Forces so they can perform their historic and glorious role to ensure the achievement of security and stability, which lead to peace.

The national responsibility to defend the national soil and the future of peace in our country requires us to set aside part of our food to support the Armed Forces. It requires the enlistment of all in their ranks, cohesion with them as they engage in the battles of honor and dignity in the woods and forests.

Our major concern is to liberate Al-Nasir from aggression supported by foreign forces and we consider that liberation as the liberation of the Sudanese will. From here the head of state's council calls upon the masses of the people to rally to their Armed Forces to make this a reality through a conscious and popular plan, being aware of the national responsibilities for the safety of the country and the future of peace.

The battles to recapture Kurmuk and Qaysan were powerful scenes and heroic acts for the Armed Forces and an epic of the cohesion of the people as fighters in the ranks of the Armed Forces. The recovery of Al-Nasir from the rebellious elements is the cause of all the masses in their struggle against the enemies of national sovereignty and our free and independent development. We have written the history of our country with our blood and sweat and will not allow the forces of foreign interference to (?tarnish) this brilliant history of the honor of battle for peace in all parts of our country.

As the head of state's council announces general mobilization in support of our Armed Forces, it moves at the vanguard of the ranks to implement the comprehensive popular plan with regard to it.

SPLM Official Welcomes U.S. Mediation Offer

NC3001114989 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 30 (AFP)—The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has welcomed an offer by the United States to mediate between the rebel group and the Sudanese government, a senior rebel official said here Monday.

Lam Akol, a field commander of the SPLM's armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a member of the SPLM high command, said the Sudanese conflict was primarily an internal problem which the Sudanese should be able to resolve themselves.

"However, if any third parties can bring their influence to bear on Khartoum, then we would welcome that", he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Washington on Friday offered its "good offices" to mediate an end to the six-year civil war, in which the SPLA is fighting to free the largely Christian and animist south from Arab domination by the north, or to play any role acceptable to the parties.

But Dr Lam, a former Khartoum University lecturer, said there had so far been no contacts, direct or indirect, between the SPLA and U.S. authorities.

He blamed Khartoum for being intransigent in rejection of peace moves.

"As far as we are concerned, we have put a peace formula on the table," he said, referring to last November's peace agreement signed here between his movement and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

That accord was rejected by the Sudanese National Assembly, leading the DUP to pull out of the governing coalition.

State Council Chairman Departs for Iraq

EA2901212189 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The chairman of the State Council, Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, left yesterday for a 3-day visit to Iraq to discuss the promotion of bilateral relations with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Mr al-Mirghani was seen off by Dr Ali Hasan Taj al-Din and Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik, members of the State Council; Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, patron of the Democratic Unionist Party; and a number of ministers.

Al-Turabi Comments on Eritrean Problem

AB2801200589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1034 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jan (SUNA)—Dr Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, the acting foreign minister, has said that the government does not intend to barter the Eritrean cause for the southern problem. He said Sudan's efforts to find an urgent solution to the Eritrean problem did not include the right to interfere in the affairs of others [words indistinct] or to control their destiny.

According to today's AL-SUDANI, Al-Turabi said that Sudan's official line was limited to bringing together the Ethiopian and Eritrean sides. Likewise Sudan's relationship with Ethiopia was independent of any linkage with the rebellion in the south [words indistinct] the Sudanese Government's efforts [words indistinct] attainment of a situation which would satisfy the parties in the conflict and the reduction of tension in these areas of the country.

Al-Turabi said that there were aspects of the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict which affect Sudan in the political, economic and social spheres. He said Sudan's efforts were aimed at bringing the two sides to the negotiating table. Sudan's relations with Ethiopia predated the rebellion in southern Sudan and would continue without being affected by it, he said.

Tunisia

Lebanon's Al-Huss, Al-Husayni Arrive in Tunis

NC2901062589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Tunis from Paris last night. During their 36-hour stay in Paris they held discussions with Lebanese and Arab figures, foremost with Raymond Iddih. They also telephoned former prime minister Sa'ib Salam, who is in Geneva.

Hold Talks With Klibi, Others

NC2901074089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] At 2000 last night, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab Good Offices Committee; Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Ji'an, Kuwait's ambassador at the Arab League; and Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, director of Arab affairs at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, in his wing at the Hilton Hotel in Tunis.

The prime minister discussed with them the means of ensuring that the Arab committee will produce positive results. He also welcomed the Arab initiative and expressed satisfaction with the serious approach the committee is taking. He said he was ready to cooperate with the committee to reach the aspired goal in the interest of Lebanon and the Arabs.

Shaykh al-Sabah, Klibi, and the accompanying delegation then went to Speaker al-Husayni's wing, where they reviewed the various aspects of the committee's mission with him.

After the two meetings, Shaykh al-Sabah said he was happy to visit Prime Minister al-Huss and Speaker al-Husayni following their arrival in Tunis. He pointed out that he will meet with General Michel 'Awn when he arrives in Tunis today.

Al-Huss added: The object of our meeting tonight was to prepare for the meeting which will be held on Monday. We discussed several issues and everything I heard from the two men makes me think the committee will succeed. He stated that solving the Lebanese crisis depends on the agreement of the Lebanese themselves. The committee has no magic wand to solve the crisis, he said, but pins its hopes on the Lebanese brothers.

The Arab League secretary general also met with Al-Husayni and Al-Huss last night and reviewed the developments with them.

Klibi, Others Welcome Lebanon's General 'Awn

NC2901165189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn arrived in Tunis this evening. He was met at Carthage Airport by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Tunis 'Abd al-Muhsin al- Ji'an, Assistant Arab League Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad, and other officials.

Islamic Tendency Movement Changes Name

LD2901155389 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] In Tunisia the Islamic Tendency Movement has changed its name. The MTI has henceforth been christened the Nahdah Movement, that is to say, the Renaissance Movement.

Western Sahara

Second Meeting With King Hassan Scheduled

LD2901223489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and Polisario Front secretary general, announced in Algiers today that a second meeting between King Hassan II and a Polisario Front delegation will be held during the second half of February.

This announcement was made following talks which lasted for more than an hour at the Methak residence with Mr Moussa Traore, Malian president and current OAU chairman. Traore is curently paying a state visit to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Receives Message From Iranian President

LD3101114889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1032 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 31 (KUNA)—Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Sabah Tuesday received at his office Iranian charge d'affaires during which he handed him a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Nothing was disclosed about the contents of the message.

Oman

Oil Minister on Readiness To Reduce Oil Exports

JN3001105289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Muscat, 30 Jan (WAKH)—Omani Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari has announced that the Sultanate of Oman is playing an important role in the coordination between the OPEC and non-OPEC states. He said that this role was commended in the final statement issued at the end of the recent London meetings held between the OPEC and non-OPEC experts.

In a statement to 'UMAN published today, the Omani minister said that the Sultanate of Oman, as an example to the non-OPEC states, is ready to reduce a percentage of the quantity it exports within a general agreement among the non-OPEC states.

He noted that the coming meeting of the OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers might ask the non-OPEC states to reduce or freeze their export quotas. Oman will respond to this call with the response of the other non-OPEC states. He added that the abidance of only one state to the implementation of this request will not affect the oil market or the stability of prices. He said that all states must abide by this. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Papers View Bush Announcement on PLO Dialogue

JN2801162089 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, Jan 28 (GNA)—Two Qatari newspapers welcomed an announcement by U.S. President George Bush that his administration would upgrade the level of dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Under the title, "Steady Advances," English language daily 'GULF TIMES' said: "U.S. President George Bush, in his first press conference, promised yesterday that his administration will promote the level of dialogue with the PLO soon. Nor did the president rule out possible meetings between the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, and James Baker, Bush's secretary of state, although he did suggest it would be premature.

"The new U.S. reality towards the Middle East continues. Meanwhile the PLO makes further political and diplomatic advances on the European scene, for yesterday 'Arafat met with the foreign ministers of three EEC countries in Madrid: France, Greece and Spain."

"Back in the USA, the widely respected CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR in a major article yesterday, predicted that the Bush administration will make early moves within the framework of the Middle East peace process. Phone contacts were mentioned between President Bush and several Middle East leaders, including King Husayn of Jordan, Egypt's President Mubarak and the Israeli prime minister. The topic in all these talks, it is said, was the Middle East problem and how to help along peace."

"The Israelis are now the obstacles, and the new President will have to project towards the Israelis a policy far removed from that of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan. The Israelis would do well to recall that Mr Bush, when vice president, reportedly proposed an economic punishment of the Israelis after they bombed the Iraqi nuclear facilities, and after they militarily adventured in Lebanon in 1982. What Mr Bush could not do then he is empowered to do now—and should do if Zionist intransigence is protracted much further."

AL-RAYAH daily maintained that the greatest accomplishment of the Palestinian peace offensive has been the emergence of American understanding of the reality of the Palestinian position and the PLO's serious drive towards just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"Bush's announcement on the promotion of contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation is a positive step on the part of the United States towards the Palestinian issue which for four decades has been ignored out of keenness on the interests of the Zionist entity," the paper said.

The paper called on the United States to shoulder its responsibility as a super power by realising that the dialogue with the PLO is not an end in itself, the aim being to formulate bases for a just and comprehensive peace in the framework of the international conference which is globally (albeit with the exception of Israel) recognised as the only bridge to stability in the region.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Chairs Meeting on Ties With Jordan, Iraq

JN2801151689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, chaired a joint meeting of the Consultative Council and the cabinet today.

The items of the agenda were discussed during the meeting. These included a number of reports on the national, regional, and Arab levels.

At the start of the meeting, the brother leader briefed the two councils on the results of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to our country and the YAR-Iraqi talks under their chairmanship. He explained that these results will have an impact on boosting bilateral relations and developing all aspects of joint fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal countries to serve the aspirations of our Arab nation and all of its all fateful causes, foremost of which are the Palestine question and establishing security, peace, and stability in the region.

The expanded meeting also heard a report from brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, on his delegation's visit to fraternal Iraq and Jordan. The report explained the outcome of the first session of the joint higher committee between our country and Iraq and Jordan and all the agreements that were concluded during the committee meetings.

The expanded meeting highly valued the outcome of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to our country and his talks with the brother president and secretary general stressing the continuation of promoting aspects of relations between the two fraternal countries and eagerness to draw up executive plans to accomplish all the contents of the agreements between our country and Iraq and Jordan within the framework of the joint higher committee meetings.

The expanded meeting blessed all steps taken by our country to reinforce and strengthen joint Arab action to serve the supreme interests of our Arab nation, whether on bilateral or other levels.

The meeting adopted a number of decisions on some of the issues discussed.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Saudi Arabia

JN2601160989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade,received Brother Usamah Faqih, under secretary of the Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy, today. They discussed spheres of trade and technical bilateral cooperation and means to promote and expand it. The meeting was attended by the Saudi ambassador in Sanaa.

Meanwhile, minutes for economic, trade, and technical cooperation between our country and sisterly Saudi Arabia were signed at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade today. They were signed for our country by Brother Muhyi al-Din al-Zabbi, under secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade for the economic section. They were signed for Saudi Arabia by Brother Usamah Faqih, under secretary of the Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

Brother Usamah Faqih left Sanaa this afternoon following a 3-day visit to our country. In a statement to SABA' news agency, he described the visit as successful, saying it resulted in the signing of an economic agreement between the two countries. He was seen off by the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade under secretary, brother officials in the country, and the Saudi ambassador in Sanaa.

Somali Official Makes Statement, Departs

JN2801163289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Abdelkadir Mohamed Haji, assistant secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, left Sanaa today following a several-day visit to our country during which he delivered a message to brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Mohamed Haji explained that his consultations with the brother officials in our country centered on bilateral issues and Arab and international issues of common concern.

He concluded his statement by expressing his thanks and appreciation for the good reception accorded him during his visit to our country.

Mohamed Haji was seen off by Dr Ahmed al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee, a representative of the presidential protocol office, and the Somali ambassador in Sanaa

Talks With Iran To Resume '1st Week' of Feb

JN3001161489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (WAKH)—Western diplomatic sources said here today that Jan Eliasson, special envoy of the UN secretary general, agreed with Iraq and Iran to resume negotiations in the 1st week of next month. The sources added that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will fix the final date for negotiations after he acquaints himself with the report on the outcome of Eliasson's talks in Baghdad and Tehran and also after he holds consultations with members of the UN Security Council.

Eliasson left Baghdad this morning having positive impressions on the outcome of his talks in Iraq. He voiced hope that the Iraq-Iran talks, which ended in Geneva at the beginning of November, will resume. The sources pointed out to the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that Iraq's approval of forming a mixed military committee—in which representatives from both countries along with UN observer personnel will participate—has given strong momentum to activating the UN role in order to achieve comprehensive peace in the region.

A press statement issued here today said positive results were achieved in Eliasson's talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi officials. The statement, distributed by the headquarters of the UN observer forces, said the talks were comprehensive and [word indistinct] and that the United Nations is looking forward to the start of the mixed military committee's work. The sources said the bilateral talks may be held in New York or Geneva as was the case before. The meetings may also coincide with the UN Security Council's coming meeting scheduled to renew the term of the UN observer forces which were formed [figure indistinct] months ago.

The sources also pointed to the possibility of holding the negotiations on two levels, namely a political level and a military one, in order to discuss various pending aspects concerning the implementation of Resolution (?598). Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, voiced Iraq's readiness to resume the talks when the UN secretary general deems appropriate with the stipulation that the Iranian side should not set any condition whatsoever.

Relations With Italy 'Normalized' After Talks

LD2601205789 Rome International Service in Italian 1830 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Relations between Italy and Iraq have been normalized thanks to the solution to the problem of the 11 warships ordered from Italian shipyards by Baghdad in 1981 which remained in our ports following the outbreak of the Gulf war. In fact, during talks yesterday and today between Italian political leaders and Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister, the two countries reached an agreement which ends the embargo placed at the time on Rome.

Sudanese State Council Head Al-Mirghani Visits

JN2801121589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, arrived in Baghdad at noon today on an official visit to Iraq. His excellency was accorded an official reception led by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Attends 'Press Meeting'

JN2801182289 Baghdad INA in English 1750 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 28, INA—President Saddam Husayn confirmed that the basis of the dialogue and visits between the Arab brethren was the crystallization of an attitude serving the Arab nation.

That came in his excellency's reply to questions of the Sudanese TV reporter during a press meeting held at the airport after arrival of the Sudanese President [title as received] Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani's arrival in Baghdad today.

President Saddam Husayn and President Ahmad 'Ali al-Mrighani answered questions of journalists from INA and the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY and broadcasting and television.

President Saddam Husayn clarified that when something appeared and deserved to be announced, those concerned would inevitably announce it.

President Ahmad al-Mirghani clarified, in his replies to the journalists, that Iraq offered much support to the Sudan in different fields despite circumstances of the war.

He said that his present visit to Iraq was to congratulate President Saddam Husayn, on the great victory that Iraq had achieved and to consolidate the two countries' bilateral relations.

Meets With Ramadan

JN3001113089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, received at his residence in Baghdad today Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister. They reviewed relations between the two sisterly countries and issues of mutual interest.

Confers With RCC Vice Chairman

JN3001112089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim visited Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, at his place of residence in Baghdad today. They discussed bilateral issues and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Dr Ibrahim al-Amin, minister of state for the affairs of Sudanese workers abroad.

Agriculture Minster Signs Agreement With Denmark

JN2701154089 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Stockholm, Jan. 27, INA—Iraqi and Denmark signed here today the minutes of 4th session of the Iraqi-Danish Joint Committee for Economic, Trade and Technical cooperation.

The minutes, which were signed on the Iraqi side by Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mr. Karim Hasan Rida and on the Danish side by [the] minister of industry, includes developing relations of bilateral cooperation especially in economic and technical fields and increasing exchanging commercial goods.

Returns From Copenhagen

JN2901114289 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 29, INA—Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mr. Karim Hasan Rida returned here last night after leading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the 4th session of the Iraqi-Danish Joint Committee for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation which were held in Copenhagen.

During the session, the two sides reviewed what had been implemented from the previous session and signed a joint minute for bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields in addition to discussing increasing the exchange of goods between the two countries.

Papers View Iran's Attitude Toward Peace

JN2701153689 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 27, INA—Iraqi newspapers, published here today, held Iran responsible for hampering peace negotiations and they said that Iran should prove good faith.

AL-THAWRAH daily said in an editorial today that Iran is fully responsible for hampering and foiling negotiations through using illusive methods and selective attitudes in dealing with the Resolution No 598.

The daily said that Iran still rejects abiding itself by a clear and defined attitude vis-a-vis the target of comprehensive and final peace and it continues to adopt the method of cunning and manouvers and non-commitment to any clear principles in dealing with this resolution.

AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said that Iran refuses to fix ceasefire on land, at sea and in the air according to documented arrangements which are abiding for both sides.

It said that Iran is still threatening to search the Iraqi ships in the international waters claiming that the international law gives it this right while the international law considers inspecting the ships in the international waters during ceasefire as an act of aggression and a flagrant violation of this law.

The daily said that the Iranian regime still rejects a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war and it violated the partial agreement it had signed concerning exchanging POW's the wounded and crippled, in violation of the 3rd article of the Resolution No. 598 and the Geneva convention for 1949 that stresses the necessity of exchanging POW's directly after ceasing military operations.

AL-THAWRAH newpaper added that Iraq categorically and decisively rejects Iran's demand for the withdrawal of forces to the international borders in isolation from other articles of Resolution No. 598. The paper said that this demand is a clear selective attitude.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said that Iraq has realised since the beginning that the negotiations will not be easy due to Iraq's knowledge of the Iranian rulers' crooked methods in dealing.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper added that Iraq had declared its extremely clear attitude as it has accepted Resolution No. 598 two days after its issuing while parts of its territory were still occupied by Iran and the war was still raging fiercely, and the Iranian rulers threatened and massed in the east of Basra hundreds of thousands of Iranian forces wishing to occupy Basra.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily stressed that Iraq was fully ready to implement the resolution according to the sequence of its operative articles since that date if Iran accepted it but Iran did not accept it out of its evil intentions to fulfil its expansionist greeds, which were destroyed by the Iraqis and Iran sustained the catastrophe.

Then the Iranian ruelrs accepted the resolution and Iraq did not exploit the situation stressing its peaceful tendency and expressed its readiness to negotiate with Iran directly to implement the Resolution No. 598.

Hungary's Nemeth Foresees Ties With Israel

AU3001174989 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Vienna, Jan 30 (AFP)—Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth announced Monday that his government would restore diplomatic relations with Israel within the next five months.

The statement made Hungary the first Warsaw Pact nation to announce renewed ties with Israel since all Eastern Bloc countries apart from Romania severed relations after the Israeli-Arab War of 1967.

Mr. Nemeth added that Hungary was, "of course, in touch with Moscow, but did not need prior Soviet authorisation for domestic and foreign policy decisions." [passage omitted]

'Satisfaction' With Move Noted

TA3101063689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth yesterday publicly confirmed his government's intention to restore diplomatic relations with Israel within the next five months.

In an interview with Austrian Television, Nemeth said that Hungary is, "of course, in touch with Moscow, but does not need prior Soviet authorization for domestic and foreign policy decisions."

Sources in Jerusalem said that once Hungary restores ties, Poland can be expected to follow suit, and other Eastern bloc countries will also gradually upgrade their level of representation.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday expressed "satisfaction with the public confirmation, at the highest possible level, of similar information which has reached us from other Hungarian officials."

The spokesman's relatively subdued reaction may be ascribed to the fact that Nemeth did not fix a date for the renewal of ties.

Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, said the matter of restoring full ties had been raised by Shamir in his meeting with Hungarian leader Karoly Grosz in Budapest in September.

Shamir, Pazner said, had told Grosz and Hungarian ministers who have since visited here that the lack of relations between the two countries is "abnormal."

"Israel welcomes the move, if it will indeed be taken," Pazner said.

Sources in Jerusalem said that, while it was technically true that Hungary did not seek Moscow's approval for such foreign policy moves, it was equally true that Budapest would probably not carry out its intentions if it encountered any meaningful opposition from the Kremlin.

Outgoing civil defence chief Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Aharon Vardi attended a gala concert in Budapest last night for the benefit of the victims of the Armenian earthquake. Vardi was invited by the Hungarians in recognition of his role as the head of Israel's rescue team to the devastated zone.

Vienna Embassy Denies Sharon Statement on 'Arafat

AU3001192989 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Vienna—The U.S. news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS report, according to which former Israeli defense minister and present industry minister, Ariel Sharon, supports the assassination of PLO head 'Arafat, has been denied by the Israeli Embassy in Vienna today.

The embassy released a message quoting Sharon as having said the following: It is obvious that as long as 'Arafat is alive, no Arab politician will negotiate with us for fear of his life. The remark by a Sharon spokesman, also made to ASSOCIATED PRESS, that the industry minister himself would kill 'Arafat if he had the opportunity to do so, was also denied by the Israeli Embassy.

Hassan-Formulated Mideast Peace Plan Denied

TA2801165589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Morocco firmly denies THE JERUSALEM POST report that King Hassan has formulated a peace plan and that he is about to call on the Arab countries to recognize Israel in return for recognition of the Palestinians right to self-determination.

Morocco's official news agency makes clear that legal proceedings will be taken against any media organization in the world that repeats the report.

Plan To Have Jews Immigrate From India Reported

JN2901185089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Jan 89 pp 1, 20

[By Najih Khalil]

[Text] AL-SIYASAH has disclosed a secret Israeli plan to have 35,000 Jews immigrate from India to Israel over the next 2 years.

Informed sources told AL-SIYASAH that the plan, codenamed Ali Baba—the same codename given to the plan to have Iraqi Jews immigrate to Israel in the early

1950's—falls within a general Israeli scheme to have large numbers of the world Jewry immigrate after the failure of the Jewish immigration agency to attract Soviet Jews, who preferred to settle in the United States after leaving the Soviet Union.

The plan also comes in view of increasing Israeli apprehension about the escalating Palestinian growth rate.

The same sources told AL-SIYASAH that an Israeli delegation, including a top Foreign Ministry official and a Mosad official, recently paid a 2-week visit to India.

The sources say that the Indian Government agreed to the visit after strong insistence and mediation by parties that have diplomatic and trade relations with both India and Israel, and in light of information leaked by Tel Aviv that it had an important offer to India on a vital and important matter.

In its meetings with Indian officials, the Israeli delegation made a proposal, including an offer to provide technical and consultative assistance to develop the ability of the Indian nuclear plant to an extent that would help break the balance that currently exists with a neighboring Asian county. This would be in return for the Indian Government allowing the implementation of the Ali Baba plan.

The concerned Indian authorities rejected the plan in principle despite Israeli pressure, which included an implicit threat to provide the same technical assistance and consultation to the aforementioned Asian country.

It is to be noted that this is the second Israeli attempt to have Indian Jews immigrate. Following the immigration of the Ethiopian Falasha in 1985, Israeli Knesset member Menahem Hakohen visited India to discuss the possibility of having Jews living there immigrate to the Zionist entity.

In meetings he held then with leaders of the Jewish community in Bombay, Cochin, and other Indian cities, the leaders expressed their belief that most of the Indian Jews wish to emigrate to Israel, but they waited for the concerned Israeli authorities to explain to them how they would be accommodated in Israel.

Gur Discusses 'Uprising,' Negotiations

JN3001194789 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
29 Jan 89 p 5

[Interview with Minister of State Mordekhay Gur by Amirah Hasan in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Hasan] You resigned because of your disapproval of Shamir heading the Israeli government, then you came back as a minister in his government. What is your logic behind this?

[Gur] I resigned because of the Shin Bet scandal and refused to return to the government three times. When the Palestinian uprising started, I said in the Knesset that this event is the most intensive event ever to have faced Israel since it was founded. This reality became clearer after 13 months had passed since the start of the uprising. I expressed my opinion on the Israeli-Arab dispute and the Palestine problem when I was an Israeli Knesset member.

There has been a great deal said on the importance of having new leadership to take over the Labor Party because we have not succeeded in forming a government under Peres' leadership. In 1992, I can become a member of the new leadership of the Labor Party.

[Hasan] Have you gone back on your principles by joining the government of the Likud?

[Gur] There are changing situations we have to adapt to.

[Hasan] At any price?

[Gur] Of course. We hoped to succeed in the elections. But the Israeli voters thought otherwise. After the elections, we should have chosen the appropriate government for Israel. There was the possibility of forming a limited rightist government, but it would have been an obstacle in the way of peace. The other possibility was to form an expanded government through which we could realize our principles. I called for forming the expanded government because I am sure of our great influence inside this government and we can push it in whichever direction we want at the right time.

I believe that the prime minister and foreign minister's statements contain positive signs because solving the Palestine question is a complicated issue. It is better to move forward step by step with the Likud rather than confront the obstacles in general. If the government rejects the opportunities to advance the peace process, we could then resort to the ballot boxes.

[Hasan] What is the role of the Labor Party today in Israeli policy?

[Gur] I will answer your question with the same words I said to Peres the day he asked that I return to the Foreign Ministry. I preferred the Finance Ministry to be able to confront Israel's economic and social problems. That day, I asked Peres whether he had established contacts and negotiations with France and the FRG while I was foreign minister or while I was director general of security.

Therefore, we have to keep in mind that the ministry that plays a basic role in relations between us and the Palestinians is the Ministry of Security, which is in our hands. When negotiations start, the prime minister and the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, and economy will participate. We have not gone back on our stand on foreign policy, but when events develop and the decisionmaking stage is upon us, we will be the winners.

[Hasan] What do you think of Rabin's style in confronting the uprising?

[Gur] It should be clear to the minister of defense that the solution is not military, but political. But one should wait until the uprising calms down. After that, we could face the other problem. The uprising has achieved a positive and important result, which is that the PLO leadership, despite the fact that it does not live in the region, has understood that it has to enter into political discussions. I see this as a victory for Israel. It has waged war against the PLO for 30 years to reach a cease-fire and enter negotiations.

Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said this very clearly when he said that if the PLO does go into peace negotiations, the flame of the uprising will burn out and a worse catastrophe than 1948 and 1967 will set in. He is right in that. I believe that the change in the PLO is positive and I bless these steps.

[Hasan] Is blessing them enough? Why do you not attempt to change the Labor Party program and cancel the ban placed by the party on meeting PLO men?

[Gur] As a start, I would like to say that this is something important that has changed the behavior of the PLO men since July 1988. What they have to say is important, just as what we have to say is too. But this is not enough to start down a road we have not been on before. The PLO has to clearly state that terrorism has stopped totally and that they are talking in the name of two million Palestinian refugees. This is a difficult decision to make.

[Hasan] Then you are ready to meet with 'Arafat?

[Gur] This is an impractical question because, 9 years ago, I declared that I was ready to meet with the PLO leaderships once they stop their terrorist acts and change the Palestinian charter.

[Hasan] Therefore, you are ready now for this meeting?

[Gur] The whole world will talk to the PLO now, even the United States. The question posing itself now is what shape the talks between Yasir 'Arafat and myself will take. Therefore, I believe that the United States has a basic role in paving the way for talks through preparatory discussions that clarify the vague points.

I also believe that President Mubarak is committing a gross error by setting conditions for negotiations between Israel and the PLO. This will create numerous difficulties and will stop the peace process. He does have an important role, which is to come to Israel and negotiate over and over again. He is capable of changing the course of events.

[Hasan] What are the causes of the dispute between you and Peres?

[Gur] Peres wants me out of the government. I have never spoken to him on this matter. However, I believe he fears that I will be one of the nominees for the party leadership in the 1992 elections.

[Hasan] Why did you bless the Knesset members' travel to meet with PLO representatives?

[Gur] I always believe that such meetings create an atmosphere of understanding and give the impression inside Israel that understanding and talking with the PLO will not lead to a catastrophe. The conflict between us and the Palestinians continued for many years. It is now appropriate, after all these long years, to start meeting so that mutual trust will be generated, which will lead to pushing the peace process.

[Hasan] Do you meet with the Palestinians in the occupied territories?

[Gur] Of course, many times and during the uprising. To be more specific, in August of 1988 I met some leaders supportive of the PLO to get a clear picture from them on the reality of the PLO stand. They clarified for me the PLO's new changes. I was hoping that the PLO would not postpone convening the PNC in Algiers until after the Israeli elections, because had the PNC met before the elections, it would have been possible for the Labor Party to change some of its stands.

But, unfortunately, the PLO postponed the PNC session from 20 September to 1 October, and then until after the Israeli elections. Had these developments in the Palestinian stand taken place before the Israeli elections, the picture would have been different now. It would have been possible for us to explain this to the Israeli people, but that would have affected the election results.

Rabin: No Action on Plan Without Support

TA3101121489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated today that there has actually been no change in his phased plan, but that it is not yet the government's plan. He refused to say when he would submit the plan to the Cabinet. The defense minister addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Arye Golan, our correspondent in the Knesset, spoke to him.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Contrary to the proposals made by my colleagues yesterday—who said to me: Why wait until calm is attained? Set a date for elections today—I say that, assuming this becomes the government plan and as the dialogue continues, we must reach a point where we will feel that there are enough elements in the field who are prepared to accept this four-phased proposal. Before that, there would be no sense in taking unilateral action on the implementation of the plan—namely, setting the date for elections.

[Golan] With which elements in the territories do you think you can reach an agreement about the plan in its entirety, as you stated yesterday, before there is calm and before elections are held?

[Rabin] First of all, this must be a government plan; however, the very fact that such a plan is being floated—albeit only as a private proposal—obliges people in the area to react. I believe that, when and if this becomes the government's plan, we will have to check whether we have enough of a basis.

[Golan] Are your actions concerning the plan coordinated with the prime minister and Likud ministers? When will you submit it to the Cabinet?

[Rabin] I will submit it to the Cabinet when I decide. [end recording]

'Turnabout' Noted

TA3001203289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Report by Victor Nahmias]

[Text] The defense minister is encouraged by the reactions to his plan of Palestinian notables from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, which have been reported by his aides. Few of the notables rejected the plan outright; others, including notables identified with the PLO, said that there is a basis for discussion and urged the defense minister to pursue his plan until conditions allow them to openly accept it—with the PLO's approval, of course.

In the recent week, Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, and the heads of the Civil Administration in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, conducted a series of meetings with representatives of all the political streams in the territories, beginning with the Gaza Strip's Islamic Movement leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, down to Bashir al-Barghuthi, one of the Palestinian Communist Party leaders, as well as notables identified with the PLO. By the way, not long ago the defense minister himself visited the Qezi'ot detention camp where he met with some of the more important detainees.

It will be noted that one of the lessons learned from the uprising in the territories is the widened circle of personages invited for talks at the Civil Administration. The talks now include residents who bear no official capacity and who were ignored in the past, such as academics and young people. Shmu'el Goren's meeting with Faysal al-Husayni during the latter's administrative detention reflects the turnabout more than anything else, particularly if we recall the fact that one of the reasons for the resignation of Reserve Brigadier General Efrayim Sene as head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration on the eve of the uprising was none other than the restriction imposed on his contacts with notables identified with the PLO.

Commentary on Plan

TA3001095289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 89, pp 1, 10

[Commentary by Ken Kaplan: "Disillusionment With Likud Prompted Rabin Proposal"]

[Text] Defence Minister Rabin spelled out his four-stage plan on the territories to reporters a week and a half ago partly because he believed that recent conciliatory statements by Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens would not result in an actual political initiative toward ending the Palestinian uprising.

Arens's remark that a solution for the West Bank and Gaza should take into consideration the Palestinians' aspirations, and Shamir's stated willingness to use the UN as an umbrella for negotiations with the Arabs have been perceived as a softening of the Likud's hard-line position.

But sources close to Rabin told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday he considered these declarations to be merely hot air, a judgement which led him to take the unusual step as defence minister of putting forward a political proposal without prior approval of the cabinet.

Rabin's decision to release prominent Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni from six months of administrative detention could play an important role in furthering his initiative. It is felt that Al-Husayni's intimate ties with the PLO and his key role in the intifadah [uprising], the very reasons why he has been kept in administrative detention for most of the duration, make him a valuable potential partner.

However, the sources point out, if Al-Husayni returns to his former activities on behalf of the uprising without playing a constructive role in fostering a dialogue, the defence establishment will waste little time in returning him to prison.

Rabin and his aides are not dismayed by the public rejection of his plan by the Palestinians. In private conversations with Rabin, the sources noted, several prominent leaders from the territories had made it clear that "there is something to talk about." Rabin has also made it clear, the sources emphasize, that he has no qualms about local leaders seeking counsel from the PLO and even travelling abroad to do so. His only condition for the dialogue is that his partners be residents of the territories.

According to the sources, several other global and regional considerations led Rabin to pursue his initiative, foremost among them his concern that the Arab-Israeli dispute is fast becoming the world's last unsolved regional conflict, a status which could cost Israel dearly.

The sources also noted Rabin's assessment that the incoming U.S. administration will show less patience than its predecessor in dealing with the Middle East. The decision to show his plan to reporters on the eve of President Bush's inauguration was no coincidence. It was important to send the message that the same people who shoot plastic bullets are ready to negotiate.

Gaza Muslim Leader Favors Holding Elections

TA3001173689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The leader of the Islamic movement in the Gaza Strip favors holding elections in the territories. He says that there is no other way to choose a representation for the Palestinian people. In an interview to be broadcast by the Arabic Television service, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin says that elections under international supervision would bring freedom and security to the residents of the territories. According to him, there is no escaping a dialogue with Israel.

Al-Husayni Brings Statements in Line With PLO

TA3101065589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Under fire from both the PLO and critics in the territories for his endorsement of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni said yesterday that the voting could only take place after an Israeli withdrawal from the areas.

Al-Husayni's clarification brought his position into line with the PLO, which asserted Sunday that elections could only be held after Israel withdrew from the territories, under UN supervision and in the presence of UN forces.

"My first point was free and democratic elections and such elections cannot be held under an occupation," Al-Husayni said. "There is no difference between what the PLO is saying and what I am saying."

Al-Husayni gave similar clarifications to prominent Palestinians who spoke to him about his statements after his release from prison on Sunday. Those remarks drew heavy criticism from several prominent figures in the territories, who boycotted a planned meeting with Al-Husayni yesterday, forcing its cancellation, according to Palestinian sources. Al-Husayni is expected to issue a formal clarification of his position tomorrow, the sources said.

The condemnation of Al-Husayni stemmed from fears that his statements and their interpretation by the Israeli media would further efforts by Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to promote a local Palestinian leadership as an alternative to the PLO, Palestinian observers said. Al-Husayni was being billed in Israel as the leader of Palestinians in the territories, and his endorsement of elections appeared to further Rabin's proposals for balloting in the areas, according to the observers.

The PLO is concerned about independent initiatives by Palestinians in the territories and Al-Husayni's local rivals have seized upon his statements to challenge his reputed status as the leading political figure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians Criticize Talks With Authorities

TA3101101489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by correspondent in the territories Ori Nir]

[Text] Public figures in the territories yesterday voiced their resentment at the way their recent meetings with Israeli Government officials have been described. According to them, the defense minister's office, along with the Israeli media, have been blowing the talks totally out of proportion. One of the men, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the reports attest to intentional misleading on the part of the Israeli authorities. Other dignitaries, including some considered the most prominent PLO supporters in the territories, said that media coverage of the meetings between Civil Administration officials and representatives of the population was disproportionate with their importance.

The figures emphasized that those who think this marks the beginning of negotiations are wrong. Some of them described it as "forced acceptance of the vanquisher's invitation to meet the vanquished."

One very prominent dignitary, identified with the PLO in the territories, warned senior Israeli officials against harboring what he called "the illusion of separating the residents of the territories from the PLO." Another one said that "neither Faysal al-Husayni nor his late father, if he were to rise from the grave, would come out against the PLO."

Figures in the Gaza Strip met yesterday with Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in Gaza, and with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories. They later dismissed reports that they had discussed political issues, particularly the question of holding elections in the territories, with Goren.

Military Said Critical of Political Apathy

TA2701132489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 27 Jan 89 pp 1, 2

[Ron Ben-Yishay article: "Looking for a Scapegoat"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Like the change that occurred in public opinion on the Lebanon war during the protracted siege of West Beirut, the current shift in public attitudes toward the uprising has also been brought about by the reservists. They showed the people of Israel that the ability of the army to handle problems that are not purely military in nature is not limitless.

In fact, for several weeks now the heads of all the various military branches have applied constant pressure on the political echelon to launch an initiative for some arrangement on the territories. The pressure is applied gently and indirectly but firmly, particularly during briefings and in reports given to the prime minister and the defense minister.

It is believed that if the inhabitants of the territories have no achievement to show and boast of, they might soon resort to large-scale terrorism. As an immediate measure, most of the security elements recommend holding municipal elections in the territories soon. According to their assessment, even the PLO will accept these elections and the Jewish residents of the territories will not view them as a hostile act.

Yet while the political echelon is dilly-dallying and hesitating, deliberating and sitting on the fence, the reservists have upset the entire applecart. What Shamir heard in Nabulus gave vent to feelings that the settlers have long harbored, but which have not yet found an outlet. Rabin, who was the first to notice which way the wind is blowing, tried to launch the "instant" political initiative. None of the components of the "phased plan" were innovative and the hasty report on it also raised some eyebrows.

An examination revealed that the "plan" was not intended to score political achievements. Its sole purpose was to refute the soldiers' claims that they were paying the price while the politicians were not doing enough to reach a political solution.

Rabin, still a dyed-in-the-wool army man, is highly sensitive to accusations that he is sending men on tough and debilitating missions without doing everything required of him by the office he holds. In one of his frequent visits to the area, he pinpointed the main source of troop displeasure and opted not to wait for the Cabinet. In offering his "plan," he was trying to signal to the troops: "I have done my part."

This week Rabin also tried to show that he does not only talk but that he also acts upon his words. According to reliable sources, the defense minister's decision not to seek an extension of Faysal al-Husayni's detention was meant to deliver the following message to the inhabitants of the territories: We are prepared to discuss elections without attempting to rig them or choose the partners for a dialogue. The locals will elect them.

Attempts at a dialogue with the [Palestinian] leadership have been conducted in the lockup facilities as well. Thousands of "local leaders" are being held prisoner in Qezi'ot, Al-Zahiriyah, Gaza, and other detention centers. They can all, at least theoretically, be partners to a dialogue. The Civil Administration and the IDF have been making great efforts to use this situation to conduct talks with the Palestinian leaders who really pull the strings in the territories. So far they have been unsuccessful.

Those involved in these efforts at rapprochement argue that one of the reasons for their failure is the absence of a clear-cut, realistic Israeli political plan that would constitute the basis for discussion. One more reason they cite is the influence of the extremists among the detainees.

The current tendency in the defense establishment is to prefer using the Civil Administration to pressure the locals to calm down. Many of the efforts recommended by Minister Sharon, such as denying instigators and stone throwers the right to work in Israel, withholding export licenses, prohibiting bridge crossings, and other forms of economic pressure, are being viewed seriously right now. The feeling is that the Civil Administration has failed to exhaust its powers in the war against the intifadah [uprising]. Yet Civil Administration heads warn that collective economic punishment should not be implemented because if it is, the entire population will feel that it has nothing to lose and will actively join the uprising.

Perhaps this shift toward administrative measures could have occurred earlier had all the IDF generals been privy to decisions regarding the territories. But the "territories forum," which convenes weekly at the defense minister's office to decide on policy in the territories, includes only the chief of staff and three generals: the deputy chief of staff and the commanders of the Central and Southern Commands. Sometimes the head of the Intelligence Branch also sits on these sessions. All the other General Staff Command generals are extras and are almost never asked to contribute their views on the central issue that currently troubles the IDF. Understandably, they are not overly anxious to volunteer their views and be involved.

No one is eager to step into the shoes of General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, or those of General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command.

Labor Group Supports Weizman Meeting 'Arafat
TA3101101689 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Jan 89 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[Text] A group of Labor Party members who favor the confederation option have proposed that Minister 'Ezer Weizman head a delegation of 100 Israeli figures from various parties that would meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo and discuss the promotion of a peace agreement based on the tripartite confederation option.

Addressing Minister Weizman, group spokesman Arye Hess noted that now is a good time to break the psychological barrier prevailing in the public on meetings with PLO leaders. Only a large Israeli delegation that would include Knesset members, academics, intellectuals, and political activists from different parties could break through this barrier, which today constitutes the main obstacle on the road to an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian peace arrangement based on the tripartite confederation option. Hess further noted that he has already appealed to several figures from various parties who have expressed to him their willingness to take part in such a delegation, with the condition that a high-level, internationally acclaimed figure such as Weizman agrees to head it.

Weizman's Call for Talks With PLO Lauded
TA3001091689 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Jan 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Weizman's Call"]

[Text] Israeli Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman has called on his government to draw up plans to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and negotiate with the PLO. Weizman added: "The PLO is the only determining factor. We must negotiate with it because it can deliver and has the authority to do so."

These remarks contain positive and realistic elements. At a time when Israeli statesmen and decisionmakers are competing in making statements that reject PLO participation in the peace process, a voice has emanated from the unity government that puts matters in their proper perspective on the issue of peace talks.

This is not a new position by Weizman. For several years now he has been incessantly calling for PLO participation in all diplomatic efforts aimed at launching the peace process, bearing in mind that the Palestinian problem is the tree trunk from which all the complexities of the conflict between the Arab states and Israel have branched.

There is no doubt that Weizman's realism stems from his comprehension of the international political inclinations and from his understanding of the real meanings of the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the PLO. The countries of the world, including those that maintain special relations with Israel, are demanding that the conflict's file be closed and that a comprehensive and balanced solution to the Palestinian problem be found. This cannot be achieved except through the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

Although Minister Weizman has expressed the minority view in the Israeli Government, he does not stand alone on the Israeli street. The voices calling on the Israeli prime minister to adopt fateful decisions based on reality are constantly growing. It is our belief that these facts were the main factor behind the change recently witnessed in the corridors of Israeli decisionmakers regarding the convocation of the international conference and UN supervision over the peace process.

Palestinian diplomacy has demolished the cycle of stalemate and deadlock that have enveloped the peace process in the region. We can say that Weizman's call states clearly that it is up to the Israeli Government to take the next step. The entire world is waiting.

Darawshah's Party Recognizes Palestinian State
TA3101092889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The Arab Democratic Party yesterday announced its recognition of the independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within the 1967 borders and alongside the State of Israel, as declared by the PLO. This was reported by Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah.

The head of the Arab Democratic Party said that his statement comes in the wake of a resolution adopted by the party's executive committee at its last meeting. "I hope that other parties will follow suit and recognize the Palestinian state. This could strengthen the peace process and mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinian state," said Darawshah.

Criticism of Call for Ties With Moscow Rejected
TA3001092489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 89 p 10

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The Israeli Communist Party yesterday rejected criticism by the PLO representative in Moscow who last week charged that party leader Me'ir Wilner stepped out of line.

The PLO envoy Nabil 'Amr said Wilner had no right to call for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR forthwith, before Israel withdrew from the occupied territories.

The party secretariat in Tel Aviv said that 'Amr should have checked why Wilner said what he did, especially as Wilner's statements were incorrectly quoted in PRAVDA.

The party also rejected a press comment that Wilner's statements were the result of instructions he had received from Moscow. "We decided on the policy alone," the party statement said, "and Wilner was merely observing that the time was ripe for resumption of relations, because of developments in the territories, among the Israeli public, and internationally."

The Israeli Communist Party's dramatic new approach was widely reported by Arab radio stations. So far the only negative comments appear to have come from the Ahmad Jibril organization's spokesman, based in Damascus, who may have been reflecting official Syrian displeasure, as well as his own.

Security Service To Establish Patrol Unit

TA3001194189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The Kibbutz Movement and the country's Security Service will establish a new security unit that will guard the main roads in problem areas in the north. The units will patrol the roads in jeeps and vans equipped with what they call special equipment. Among the areas that will be patrolled are the Triangle and Wadi Malik.

Man Given Longer Sentence for Planned Arson

TA3001123889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The High Court of Justice today increased the sentence handed down on Binyamin Se'adya from Or Yehuda, making it six times longer. Se'adya was convicted of planning, together with two of his friends, to hurl firebombs at a hut where Arab workers for the city council were sleeping. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports from the High Court of Justice:

The time has come for the public to realize that committing violent acts with a racial background against peaceful citizens will entail serious and painful penalties, wrote Justice Gavri'el Bach. Following this trend, Se'adya was given an 18-month prison term in place of the previous 3-month sentence that he has already served. In overruling the district court decision, the justices noted that Se'adya does not regret his act. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 30 January adds that Se'adya was given "an additional 18-month suspended sentence."]

In August 1988, Se'adya and two friends prepared firebombs and a gas grenade with the intention of throwing them at a hut in Or Yehuda in which Arabs were sleeping. The three had second thoughts and finally did not commit the act. At the same time their plan was uncovered, another hut was set on fire in Or Yehuda in which three Arabs died. The justices said that this incident shows that the case before them was not isolated or unique. There are circles with tendencies that need be uprooted, they said.

Assuming that a third of the sentence will be deducted for good behavior, and reducing the sentence by the 3 months he has already served, Se'adya will serve 9 months beginning in 9 days.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Fatah Squad Uncovered

TA3001161489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Excerpts] The security forces have recently uncovered a six-member Fatah squad in the Janin District villages of Silat al-Zahr and 'Attarah. The squad members are suspected of perpetrating several terrorist acts in the Samaria region. Among other acts, some of the squad members are suspected of having thrown Molotov cocktails at Egged buses about 1 year ago in the vicinity of the Homesh settlement in Samaria.

This morning the IDF demolished the house of one of the squad members and sealed the house of another. [passage omitted]

Despite leaflet No 35, which was disseminated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] today, and despite the fact that 30 January was slated by leaflet No 33 as the Palestinian Molotov cocktail day, quiet was maintained throughout Judaea and Samaria. Workers left for their jobs in Israel, almost no disturbances were recorded, and commerce was halted at noon as usual.

2 Injured in Bus Attack

TA3001193889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] In East Jerusalem, an empty bottle was thrown at an Egged bus as it passed the Damascus Gate. Two passengers were lightly injured by flying glass.

In a separate incident, the windshield of a tour bus was shattered by stones thrown at it as it passed the Al-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives. There were no injuries reported in this incident.

17 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA3001212489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown this afternoon at Israeli cars in Qalqilyah and near the settlement of Barqan on the trans-Samaria highway. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent reports that the security forces closed the Qalqilyah area.

A settler's car was stoned this morning near the Samaria settlement of 'Enav. The woman was slightly injured by flying glass. She received medical treatment.

Arab sources today reported 17 wounded in the Gaza Strip, while the IDF reported only 2: one in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and the other in the Rafah refugee camp.

Heroin Imports Increase 1,800 Percent in Decade

TA2601155289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jan 89 p 5

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[Text] Heroin imports have increased by 1,800 percent over the past decade. Police intelligence experts believe that 1,500 kg of heroin, enough to prepare millions of portions for addicts, were smuggled into Israel last year compared to 80 kg in 1980.

According to police estimates, some 240 kg of cocaine were imported last year compared to 25 kg in 1985.

Police say thousands of criminals are now involved in importing and selling drugs, and for many it is their sole means of support.

The quantity of heroin in each delivery has grown from year to year. Drug networks now organize deliveries of dozens of kilograms of heroin, while only 2 to 3 years ago deliveries weighed just several kilograms. According to the police, 2,041 drug dealers were caught last year compared to 619 in 1980.

Last year hard drugs made up half of all the drugs confiscated by the police.

Some 200 of the 1,500 kg of heroin smuggled into Israel last year came from Lebanon. The police say drug growers in Lebanon, especially in the Al-Biqa', have turned to cultivating poppies, used for the production of heroin, in addition to growing cannabis for the production of hashish.

Lebanese growers have improved their methods of cultivation. They recently set up plants and laboratories for the production and refinement of the drugs close to the fields. The proximity of the heroin production centers to Israel have made the drug cheaper and more attractive to Israeli drug dealers. One kg of heroin can now be purchased in northern Lebanon for $10,000. In the Far East and Europe it sells for $30,000.

Heroin, Cocaine Smugglers Get Prison Terms

TA211145389 [Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 20 January carries a report by Mikha'el Rotem on page 10 on the arrest 2 days earlier of "three men suspected of involvement in importing eight kilograms of cocaine into Israel." The men were arrested "in an apartment in Jerusalem's Me'a She'rim neighbourhood." The cocaine, worth some $1.5 million, was seized by the Tel Aviv drug squad last June 24. At that time, "seven suspects were arrested. Most have since been sentenced to long prison terms, and others are still on trial."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 19 January reports that Gavri'el Edri, a resident of Bat Yam, was sentenced by the Haifa District Court to 44 months in prison "after being caught trying to smuggle 4.5 grams of heroin to his brother" who was held in the Qishon lockup facility. The affair took place at the end of December 1988.

Drugs Seized From Galilee Youths; Dealer Jailed

TA2801114789 [Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 January in an ITIM report on page 10 reports that "in Qiryat Shemona, a 16-year-old was arrested with 515 grams of heroin and 10 kilograms of hashish, the largest quantity of drugs ever seized from a youth this age in Galilee. Eight youths, including minors and two girls, were also arrested yesterday when the police raided neighbouring Galilee Kibbutz Kefar Gil'adi for drugs after a tipoff and found several grams of hashish, allegedly brought in by outside workers and sold to kibbutz youths."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 24 January reports that "Jamil Qi'al from the Galilee village of Al-Makr, who had been convicted of drug trafficking, was sentenced to 13 ½ years in prison." The man was apprehended several months previously with ½ kg of heroin, which he had bought from a Lebanese in Zefat.

Al-Qasim Departs for Arab League Meetings

JN2901173489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Amman today for Tunis to lead Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab ministerial committee entrusted with contacting the Lebanese parties regarding a settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Qasim expressed hope that the committee will be able to listen to all the Lebanese parties to the crisis, collect opinions and proposals, and bring views closer together. He said that the Arab and international circumstances are now more suitable than at any time in the past to settle the crisis and deal with it in a spirit of objectivity and pan-Arab responsibility.

He pointed out that Jordan is very concerned about the consequences posed by the continuation of the Lebanese crisis. He said that along with all its Arab brothers, Jordan is concerned about an effective contribution toward finding a suitable solution that would restore the normal situation to Lebanon and enable it to exercise its full sovereignty, and about Israel's withdrawal from its occupied territory. He expressed hope that the Lebanese brothers will respond to and cooperate in the interest of Lebanon and the Arab nation.

U.S. Call for Confederation Termed 'Plot'

JN2601104889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 89 p 18

["Highlights" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "No to the Confederation Before the Establishment of the Palestinian State"]

[Text] The historical decision to dismantle legal and administrative ties with the West Bank opened the door wide for the declaration of a Palestinian state and the recognition of this state by 90 countries. Thus, the uprising was invested and allowed to achieve tangible results. The confederation is a reverse project aimed at preventing the emergence of a Palestinian Arab state and identity in the West Bank and Gaza.

The evidence is that confederation with Jordan is one of the U.S., and sometimes European, conditions. We can also smell this in the smoke released by the Likud party every now and then. All these parties are not prompted by eagerness for unity between two Arab peoples, but aim at preventing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in Palestine, because the establishment of such a state would mean an end to the Israeli project.

The problem is that we frequently allow the enemies to employ our pan-Arab convictions to pass foreign plots against us instead of employing our policy and stands to confront these plots.

From a pan-Arab aspect, Jordanians and Palestinians are two parts of one Arab nation. However, attempts by Israel, the United States, and others to deal with these peoples as one party are only aimed at paralyzing the Palestinian confrontation of the Israeli project and opening the door for solving the problem of the Palestinians through an alternative homeland, under the pretext that Jordan is a Palestinian state, as Sharon and Shamir say, and a Jordanian-Palestinian land, as Shultz and Reagan used to say.

Regrettably, the detestful sword of regionalism is ready to hit at those who try to disclose the dimensions of this plot, although Jordan is naturally ready to enter into full unity not only with the Palestinians, but also with the Iraqis, Syrians, Egyptians, and all the Arabs. The issue for discussion, however, is not that of unity, but of getting Israel out of its crisis, and creating a Palestinian homeland outside Palestine. We should not facilitate this plot under the pretext of unity and confederation.

The talk by foreign parties about confederation before the establishment of a Palestinian state is a plot against Jordan and the Palestinian project. If the PLO officially adopted a decision on confederation in principle, this should be understood in terms of removing the obstacles before recognizing and entering into dialogue with it. For this, the PLO accepted what is harder than the confederation, such as recognizing Israel's right to exist.

We in Jordan should discuss the confederation only after enough time has passed after the establishment of a Palestinian state, and after the Palestinians exercise their identity in their homeland. Perhaps the opening of an embassy for the state of Palestine in Amman is a new measure accentuating the dismantling of ties and ruling out the confederation, as parts of a confederation do not exchange ambassadors.

The talk about confederation, and tempting the Palestinians into exercising their identity in Jordan is not only a provocation of Jordan, but also in the interest of the Israeli and U.S. schemes.

AL-RA'Y Rejects West Bank Election Plan

JN3101095289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Jan 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: Rabin Renews Attack Against Peace]

[Text] Rabin yesterday renewed his proposal calling for holding elections to select political representatives to negotiate with Israel, provided this is preceded by the suspension of the uprising and jordan's participation in negotiations that recognize Israel's right to control security and retain the settlements it has set up in the territories.

This plan means fabricating an alternative leadership to the PLO and depriving the Palestinian people of their uprising which the international community now considers a legitimate revolution rather than terrorism. This plan also means calling on Jordan to give up the international conference. Rabin seems to forget that Jordan was and still is in the forefront of those calling for and expediting the conference. In short, the plan is aimed to implement the Palestinian part of the the Camp David accords, which have vanished along with that part dealing with Palestine.

It seems that Rabin, who knows that his plan, with all its elements, is totally rejected, is still trying to maneover and resume the unsuccessful political offensive he previously led, and which failed to peneterate the Palestinian ranks inside and outside the occupied territories. Jordan is not interested in this plan because its contents and goals are no more than an attack against peace.

Jordan is not waiting for a role to be offered by Rabin or anyone else because it has chosen its role by itself. This role is represented by establishing just and comprehensive peace based on the Palestinian people's restoration of their usurped land and enabling these people to exercise their rights on their national soil. A fully authoritative international conference with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinan people, is the only means to achieve that.

Therefore, it can be stressed that Rabin's plan, which failed as soon as it was presented the first time, will not be accepted now or in the future even if it is presented a thousand times. Adherence to real peace by Jordan, the Palestinian people, the Arabs, and all peace-loving nations in the world is a firm commitment which cannot be influenced by that plan or any other suspicious Israeli plans.

TIMES Praises Steps Toward 'Economic Unity'

JN2801072289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Step in the Right Direction"]

[Text] The on-going negotiations between Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan to form a common market between them must be the talk of the Arab World. When these negotiations come to fruition as expected they will offer the Arab people the best news ever for a long time to come. Above all, such a projected sub-regional Arab common market would signal the end of the stage of talks for the sake of talks and the beginning of a new era in inter-Arab relations that would usher ever more action-oriented steps and measures leading to an overall Arab common market. It is true the dimensions of the negotiations to affect a limited Arab common market, linking just four Arab states at this initial stage, are not as ambitious as the Arab peoples would like them to be.

The calls of Arab nationalism would not rest quiet till total Arab economic and political unity is achieved. But aiming for such an ambitious objective in one leap may end up frustrating that dream. That is why it would be more prudent to proceed one step at a time till that final giant step is taken. It is the ardent hope of every citizen of the four Arab countries joining now in a mini common market that other Arab countries would become organically linked with them in the kind of a generic Arab common market that would stand the test of times and meet the imminent competition coming its way from other regional common markets proliferating the international scene.

There is no escape from the conclusion that the world is witnessing the birth of many regional united fronts, both economic and political, and it is high time that the Arab World begin this process in order to be able to meet the stiff competitive edge posed by this new phenomenon. It is with great satisfaction and pride that the Arab world saw the nuclei of such an inter-Arab economic common market begin in the Arab Gulf region in the form of the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1981. Concurrently with the four Mashriq countries' talks on the formation of their own embryonic common market, there are also on-going talks between the Maghreb Arab counties of North Africa with a view of creating the same very objective between them.

And when all these major sub-regional Arab common markets begin to flex their economic and in turn political muscles there is no telling where their respective scope and jurisdiction would end. For sure all the Arab peoples affected by such sub-regional common markets would very much like to see Syria, Lebanon and all the other Arab states, including hopefully Palestine, become integrated parts of this whole process. At this early stage there is nothing that would please Jordan more than to see Syria joining in the effort to realise part of the Arab dream by becoming an early partner in a Egyptian, Iraqi, North Yemeni, and Jordanian projected common market.

Irish Envoy on 'Hope' for Release of Hostages

NC3101072089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Patrick McCabe, Irish ambassador to the Middle East, has emphasized that he hopes that one or more of the hostages being held in Lebanon will be set free following the agreement between Amal and Hizballah.

Speaking to the press in Brummana, McCabe said: All that I have heard so far does not allow me to say that the rumors on the soon release of one or more hostages are unfounded. He added: The time has not yet come for us to lose hope, the source of which is the statements made by the Amal Movement leader and the Iranian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Seeking To Secure Release of Hostages

NC3001154589 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1518 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] With regards to the issue of hostages, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah expressed his willingness to exert every possible effort to help secure the release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

In two separate letters to Mrs Terry Anderson and another one to the International Committee for the Release of Terry Anderson, Shaykh Fadlallah expressed sympathy and profound regret over the human suffering and anguish caused by the kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon. He declared that he had exerted efforts and will continue to do so in view of the ban imposed by religious teachings on such actions. He said that he will also press on with his efforts in a bid to maintain good relations with the American people and with all people everywhere.

Shaykh Fadlallah stressed that dispute and differences between nations should not provoke action against innocent civilians, and pledged to do what he could.

Shaykh Fadlallah, according to his spokesman, is currently visiting Tehran in response to an inviation to attend a conference on Islamic (?topics). He is expected to deliver a lecture on Islamic themes.

'Large Sum' Paid for Kidnapping of Waite

NC3001084189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] A security source in Hizballah is not surprised by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's statement that the party is holding a number of foreign hostages, including Terry Waite.

The source said this is no secret, pointing out that the party paid a large sum of money to a number of partisans to facilitate the kidnapping of Waite and other hostages. In another development, information available to the Voice of Lebanon asserts that a number of hostages have been transported from Beirut's southern suburb to an unidentified location. Knowledgeable sources have said that the hostages were moved in view of information that the Syrian troops would take over the responsibility for security in the suburb.

Amal Official Says Hizballah 'Holding' Hostages

NC3101083389 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 January 89 p 58

[Text] A security official in the Amal Movement has disclosed that 'Abd al-Hadi Hammadi is the one who led the attack against the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. He added that Hammadi, who is a senior official in the Hizballah security apparatus in Beirut, is holding the foreign hostages.

Amal Official on Hostages' Location

NC3101084389 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Jan 89 pp 6, 8

[Text] An official in the Amal Movement has expressed surprise at Iran's tardiness in releasing the U.S. hostages who are being held by Hizballah near the Iranian Embassy, in the area lying between Bi'r Hasan and Al-Janah [in west Beirut].

The official has disclosed that according to available information, the hostages had been expected to be released in two or three groups before the end of 1988 because the United States had accepted certain Iranian terms, except for the "basic condition" concerning Iranian funds in U.S. banks.

The official said that U.S.-Iranian negotiations have reached a point which makes it difficult to return to the starting point. He added that "common interest" bring the Americans and the Iranians together on the need to speed up the settlement of the hostages issue, particularly since the fighting has stopped in the Gulf region.

He explained that the Americans want to end "this tragedy" which came in the wake of the Marine incident and the catastrophe which befell the [U.S.] Embassy in 'Ayn al-Muraysah. The Iranians, on the other hand, want to turn a new leaf in their relations with the "archSatan" in a bid to gain his support and assistance to reconstruct the country, the Amal official said.

The official said he has no information on the date of the hostages' release. However, he added, the approach adopted by the Iranians indicates their wish to continue negotiations with the Americans and to keep Syria out of the picture.

Hizballah Official on Abduction of Col Higgins

NC3101171689 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Beirut, Jan 31 (AFP)—The wife and daughter of a United States officer abducted in Lebanon have sent him a message to celebrate his 44th birthday, expressing hope for his speedy release, the AL-NAHAR newspaper reported Tuesday.

The birthday wish for Lieutenant Colonel William Richard Higgins, who served with the United Nations in southern Lebanon, came as a senior official in the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement said that his group would no longer endorse attacks against U.N. troops.

"We will no longer attack U.N. forces. In the past we endorsed the abduction of Colonel Higgins, but now our position have changed and we will no longer endorse such action," said Hajj Abu Hasan, a member of the Shura, the seniormost consultative body of Hizballah.

Hajj Abu Hasan's remarks echoed an agreement signed Monday in Damascus between the Iranian-backed movement and the pro-Syrian Amal militia, ending a deadly conflict that was sparked by the abduction last February of Lt. Col Higgins.

Amal, the mainstream Moslem Shi'ite faction in Lebanon, had launched then a massive operation to find the whereabouts of the missing officer amid warnings that his captors would be duly punished.

Hizballah strongly criticised the Amal initiative and accused the U.N. troops of obstructing its efforts to launch attacks against Israel. Amal and Hizballah were then deadlocked in fighting for the control of southern Lebanon and the traditional Shi'ite community in Beirut's southern suburbs.

"We miss you very much today, as always, but send you special love this day," Robin Higgins and her daughter Chrissy wrote in the message published in English by the independent AL-NAHAR newspaper.

"We hope and pray that 1989 brings us happier days and that we can celebrate all the important days we have missed—our anniversary, our birthdays, Christmas—together, soon," they said.

Lt.-Col. Higgins was serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in southern Lebanon when he was seized near the southern port of Tyre. His abduction was claimed by the Organisation of the Oppressed in the World, which also accused him of being a U.S. spy.

The U.S. officer and eight other Americans are among 21 foreigners missing in Lebanon.

UNTSO has been monitoring a truce between Lebanon and Israel since 1949.

Security Guards at U.S. Embassy Suspend Strike

NC3101125189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The committee representing Lebanese employees working at the U.S. Embassy has announced that it will suspend its strike until Monday so the embassy might consider the employees' demands.

Foremost among these demands are: raising the minimum salary by not less than 75 percent, granting comprehensive health coverage to security guards inside and outside the embassy, paying transportation costs, and paying school fees.

Sadiq al-Musawi Interviewed on Shi'ite Conflict

NC3001141989 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 Jan 89 pp 16-18

[Interview with Sadiq al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic movement in Lebanon, by Subhi Mundhir Yaghi—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Yaghi] The Lebanese arena is currently the scene of bloody incidents between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. In your view, what are the local, regional, and international dimensions of the dispute?

[Al-Musawi] The ongoing conflict is one ring in the chain of constant and ongoing conflicts among parties having different intellectual and political orientations in Lebanon. We all remember that the Amal Movement attained its strong position after engaging in conflicts with other parties before 1982. It was at war with the communists, the Ba'thists, the nationalists, and the socialists. Neighborhoods in Beirut and the south were the settings of daily military battles between Amal and one party or another.

After 1982, Amal battled on behalf of other parties, thus halting its own war when the dispute among conflicting parties was eliminated. It entered into battle with al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Organization], and with the socialists and pro-'Arafat Palestinians, when outside parties had disputes with the supporters of these powers, and it made peace with yesterday's enemies when the disputes between these powers and the outside parties were eliminated. Then Amal entered this war upon their orders.

[Yaghi] Do you mean that outside parties are involved?

[Al-Musawi] Any rational person who has been following Amal's wars with different parties can be certain that outside parties are behind the war between Amal and Hizballah in Beirut. I believe that the objective is to secure a ministerial seat in the coming cabinet, after

Birri proves that he represents the Shi'ite sect. However, the war in the south has another objective; namely, to prove to Israel Amal's ability to guarantee its security, or the security of the south. There is no difference between the two, because the tone of maintaining security in the south in effect means protecting Israel's security, while Hizballah wants to continue operations against the Zionists. [passage omitted]

[Yaghi] What is the reason for moving the Shi'ite battles to southern Lebanon? Is it, as some say, to wipe out the resistance, and to embark on security arrangements? What is the Syrian role in ending these disputes?

[Al-Musawi] The battles which started in Beirut were a continuation of the war that had begun in the south with the aim of driving out anti-Israeli elements from areas adjacent to the southern Lebanese-Israeli borders, and of scaling down anti-Israeli military operations. However, when surprising events took place in the suburb, and after the official deployment of Syrian troops in the suburb, the need evolved to find a solution to the fighting. Hizballah insisted on returning to the south, while the movement objected strongly to this. Failure to settle the matter renewed the clashes, thus embarrassing the Syrian brothers. However, I believe that a decision has been made to allow the party to return to the south. [passage omitted]

[Yaghi] Concerning the presidential issue in Lebanon, it has been noted that "The Islamic Movement" has nominated several people for the presidency of "The Islamic Republic" in Lebanon. Among these were Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Even your name was proposed for nomination. Was this just a gimmick, or, if you were a presidential candidate, what was your presidential program?

[Al-Musawi] We demand that the regime in Lebanon become an "Islamic Republic." This means of course that the president should be a devout Muslim in the true sense of the word. As elections drew near, the names of four eminences and Islamic scholars, each distinguished in his own field, were proposed as candidates for the presidency of "The Islamic Republic." However, we were against the elections' taking place through the current Chamber of Deputies because we do not believe in the valid authority of this chamber, whose term expired in 1976. We also believe that the people should decide their own future and should elect their president directly. We still believe this.

Their eminences, who were named candidates for the presidency, were hesitant in the beginning because of the novelty of the idea. However, as the picture became clear, they supported the idea of Muslims' nominating themselves for the Republic's presidency. Their nomination made an impact in the Lebanese, Regional, and international arena. The Americans and Syrians discussed the nomination of these ulema. The Syrians suggested some whose nominations were made public as substitutes for Sulayman Franjiyah and asked the American Government for its opinion. The nomination in itself allowed several other Muslims to stand for the post. In all, 23 Muslims declared their intention to run for the post. Various Christians from sects other than the Maronite were also encouraged to contest the elections. A total of 12 Christians were proposed for the post.

[Yaghi] I would like to ask you about the names of the muslims you said the Syrians presented during their meeting with the Americans.

[Al-Musawi] The Syrians proposed the names of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban.

[Yaghi] What was Iran's opinion of your nomination and that of Fadlallah and Sha'ban?

[Al-Musawi] Imam Montazeri was convinced of the need for Muslim scholars to be nominated for the presidency of "the Islamic Republic."

He stressed during meetings with me, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban the need to continue the march, to take this issue very seriously, and to rid ourselves of doubt and hesitation.

[Yaghi] What about your presidential plans?

[Al-Musawi] Concerning these, I would like to empahsize first that the people should nominate one of the other eminent Shaykhs. I personally prefer that Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah should bear this responsibility. However, if I find that the field is dominated by candidates who are beholden to foreign parties hostile to the Lebanese people's interests, then I will come forward confidently and place myself at the people's service so that the door will be open to choose between those who aspire to the presidency to serve the United States, Israel, and other regional parties, and those whose objective in life is solely to serve the oppressed. Such people sacrifice themselves for the sake of the happiness of all Lebanese people.

[Yaghi] The Lebanese Constitution states that a candidate for the Lebanese presidency should have been a Lebanese national for over 10 years, that he must be educated, and so on. How can you have the right to nominate yourself for the presidency when you are originally from Iran and have Iranian nationality, and...?

[Al-Musawi] (Interrupts, laughing) We do not recognize the Lebanese Constitution because it was not approved by the Lebanese people. Furthermore, the people have not authorized those who drew up the Constitution to carry out this task. Hence a new constitution must be drawn up, and the people must vote on it. In addition, according to the present Constitution I have the legal right to acquire Lebanese nationality. The problem is, however, that I am not suitable according to the regime's interests, and it is not possible that a president would issue a decree granting me nationality. There are more than 100,000 true Lebanese who are deprived of this right. However, those whom the Maronite regime finds suitable have acquired citizenship less than 10 years after their coming to Lebanon. Among them is Husayn al-Shirazi.

[Yaghi] What actually happened between you and the "Hizballah" leaders in Tehran? What were your previous differences? Indeed, what are your temporary agreements?

[Al-Musawi] The officials in Iran, and the brothers in the office of Imam Khomeyni (to whom I sacrifice my soul) have been trying for some time to make the brothers in the "Hizballah" leadership understand that there is no contradiction between conducting resistance against the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon and struggling against Maronite minority rule inside the country. Indeed, the two factors complement each other because of the close alliance between the Maronite regime and the Zionist entity. Nevertheless, some brothers in "Hizballah" used to hesitate to accept this fact.

However, after the developments in the South and the fact that the party found it imperative to deal with the internal situation, and as the date for electing a president drew near, everyone reached the conclusion that it was futile to disregard the internal situation, particularly the presidential issue. For this reason, they announced that it was necessary for Muslims to nominate themsleves for the presidency and publicly demanded a direct popular election be held. They also declared that the present Chamber of Deputies is illegitimate.

All these positions were identical with ours and during my visit to Tehran, the brothers in the imam's office told me that a "Hizballah" delegation had arrived to meet with Imam Khomeyni and asked me to arrive at the same time so that my meeting with them would take place with the blessing of Imam Khomeyni whom we all sanctify. And so it happened. I hope that the "Hizballah" brothers will not, along with all the other sincere Muslims, be occupied with perverted wars and will focus their efforts on confronting the current fateful stage.

[Yaghi] Let us discuss the Lebanese political situation. There are two "governments" in Lebanon. There is the government of Dr Salim al-Huss, and there is a military government under General Michel 'Awn. Which one, in your opinion, is the legitimate government representing the country and the people?

[Al-Musawi] The problem is that the legitimacy of the government of Salim al-Huss is derived from Amin al-Jumayyil, for it was the latter who issued the decree instating Al-Huss in his position as prime minister. So, if we agree whoever granted the authority has the right to withdraw it, we will have no doubt that the government of 'Awn is the legitimate government. This is because Amin al-Jumayyil issued a decree appointing 'Awn to his post. Salim al-Huss is acting without backing from the Constitution and is relying on unconstitutional premises to justify its legitimacy. It is in this context that Al-Huss had to address certain issues which we propagate, such as allowing the Muslims to serve as presidents and rejecting the Maronite monopoly of the post.

Thus, Amin al-Jumayyil did a great service to our cause when he appointed Michel 'Awn. He rebutted the myth that there is a charter dividing the three senior posts in the country among the Maronites, the Sunnis, and the Shi'ites, for, if the charter does exist, Al-Jumayyil has contravened it by overlooking the Sunnis' right to the Prime Ministry.

Al-Jumayyil has thus embarrased many of the believers in the status quo. The Maronite regime has provoked the Muslim leaders and opened wide the door for us to demand a Muslim president. It was no longer surprising that we would counteract by nominating candidates for the presidency of the "Islamic Republic."

[Yaghi] What, then, is your opinion of the appointment of Sami al-Khatib as commander of the Lebanese Army "to replace" Gen 'Awn?

[Al-Musawi] (Laughing) My brother, Al-Khatib is the son of the Maronite regime...

[Yaghi] Why do you not accept him?

[Al-Musawi] We refuse to be deceived by these appointments. We want the Maronite minority removed form its position at the top of the system and we want a committed Muslim leader to appoint capable people to the senior posts.

[Yaghi] Concerning the foreign hostages in Lebanon, how is Tehran tackling this issue? Also, in your opinion, who is truly responsible for the kidnappings?

[Al-Musawi] The issue of the hostages is intricate. For every case there is a particular reason. The kidnapping of U.S. hostages began in the wake of the Israeli-U.S. invasion of Lebanon. The abduction of UK hostages began for other reasons, as did that of the French and the Germans. The abductions were a Lebanese idea carried out by the Lebanese, and the Iranians have nothing to do with it. It is only normal, however, that any Muslim, regardless of how far he is separated geographically from Iran, would be influenced by the advice given by Iranian officials. It is also normal that the officials in the Islamic Republic would not give this advice for free knowing that "the Lebanese Forces" are holding Iranian diplomats and while Israel is holding Lebanese and Palestinian strugglers.

There are other reasons for Iran not to use its offices to press for the hostages' release. However, I would like to stress that there are signs intimating the early release of UK hostages, thanks to the UK-Iranian rapprochement. If the United States wants its hostages back, it has to respond favorably to Iranian demands so that Iran will give its advice on the U.S. hostages' release. [passage omitted]

[Yaghi] What do you know about the "Jund al-Haq" organization, which assassinated the Saudi diplomat, and which says it will stage operations in Saudi Arabia? Does this reflect Iran's resentment regarding the restoration of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Musawi] The Saudi authorities have executed strugglers from the Arab Peninsula, and it is only natural that these people have sympathizers and that these sympathizers would seek to take revenge on the officials in Saudi Arabia. The matter should not be viewed in any other way. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Launches 'National' Development Council

NC2701130889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpt] At a news conference he held today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' announced the establishment of the National Development Council and said that initiatives, efforts, and contacts require time, and they may or may not produce results. Life should not stop in anticipation of major solutions. If we have solutions to the social and economic problems, he said, we can cause the enemy to despair and can reach a solution.

Dr Ja'ja' praised the role played by the Social Solidarity Committee, explaining that it is no longer sufficient for dealing with all the problems and crises. Hence, he said, the idea of the National Development Council was born. Instead of focusing on limited resources, the experts thought about focusing on production and its means. Thus, the National Development Council will be a comprehensive national institution that will deal with all development affairs of concern to the citizens. The council's jurisdiction will, in the first stage, cover the liberated areas. It will later expand to areas to be liberated, and subsequently cover all of Lebanon.

Dr Ja'ja' pointed out that the National Development Council will concentrate on means of production and will devote attention to infrastructures. If the required finances become available and the means of production are ensured, the citizen can face the crises. In the first stage, priority will be given to water, roads, and other affairs. [passage omitted]

Soviet Ambassador Holds First Meeting With 'Awn

NC2601125389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Excerpts] As has been the case in the past few days, there were no unusual activities today, except for a visit which Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha paid to B'abda Palace, the first of its kind since General 'Awn assumed the premiership. U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy also visited 'Awn. It was the first meeting between 'Awn and McCarthy since the U.S. ambassador returned from Washington. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Kolotusha stated that his visit to B'abda palace had provided an opportunity to undertake a general review of international issues and regional conditions. He added that the discussion also dealt with the Tunis meeting.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] This was your first visit to Gen 'Awn. What was the reason for this change in attitude?

[Kolotusha] The visit took place at the invitation of Gen Michel 'Awn. It provided an opportunity for a general review of international issues and regional conditions. The discussion also dealt with some aspects of the Lebanese situation.

[Reporter] Did the talks deal with the Tunis conference?

[Kolotusha] Yes, briefly.

[Second unidentified reporter] What is the Soviet Union's position on the Tunis conference?

[Kolotusha] Our view is that the Arab League's efforts are useful and could succeed, especially if there were efforts on the Lebanese level to narrow the gap in views among the various Lebanese parties, and if there were initiatives of the kind submitted by Walid Junblatt at the Christian conference regarding the return of displaced persons to the Lebanese mountain region.[end recording]

Norwegian Officers of UNIFIL Threatened

NC2801074689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces and agent militia are continuing their provocations against the UN forces, particularly the Norwegian contingent in the eastern sector.

According to a security source, the official in charge of security and intelligence for the border militia in the eastern sector, who is called Nidal, has sent threats to Norwegian Contingent Commander Colonel (Ben Garison) and to the contingent's Operations Officer Colonel (Haegglund), warning them that they will be harmed if any border militia members are wounded or injured at one of the UNIFIL checkpoints. The checkpoints are closed when the militia tries to enter villages under the contingent's control.

UNIFIL Mandate Renewed
NC3101074089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The UN Security Council has unanimously approved the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate in South Lebanon for a further 6 months as of 1 February. [passage omitted]

Red Cross To Resume Activities 'Within 1 Week'
NC3001170189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Lebanon has declared that the committee will resume its activities within 1 week.

60 Iranian Guards Replace 40 Others in Suburb
NC3101133089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Security circles have questioned the reasons for rotating Iranian revolutionary guards in the southern suburb of Lebanon. The circles have reported that 40 revolutionary guards have left and been replaced by 60 others guards who are under the direct command of Mohsen Rafiqdust, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The operation was carried out at the time when an 8-point agreement was announced in Damascus between Amal and Hizballah.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange Fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah
NC3001171389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] It was learned a short time ago that, despite the announcement in Damascus of a cease-fire between Amal and Hizballah, tension has returned to Iqlim al-Tuffah. There have been exchanges of artillery fire between Amal and Hizballah positions in Jba' and Kafr Fila since 1600 today.

Palestinian Groups Begin 'Notable Movements'
NC3101132989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from Al-Biqa', groups belonging to Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] have begun making notable movements in the region. In the meantime, Fatah-GC is also reportedly reopening centers in the Al-Biqa' region.

According to the same reports, one of Abu Nidal's four aides has returned to Ta'labayah in the company of 70 other elements who had left for the PDRY and Libya months ago.

PLO Smuggling in 'Sophisticated Weapons'
NC3101133889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, sophisticated weapons were smuggled into the country via the Al-Jiyah and Sidon Ports last month. The objective is to reinforce the Palestinian presence in the South as a precaution against any regional developments which might take place in spring.

According to these reports, during the fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the PLO managed to smuggle in sophisticated weapons, including surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, with the help of the PSP and the Nasirite Popular Organization.

The reports add that these weapons were transported in covered trucks along the coastal road during sudden blackouts.

Palestinian Groups Clash in 'Ayn al-Hulwah
NC2801132389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes took place between the Fatah Movement's Central Command and the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp at 1000 this morning. The fighting, in which machineguns and rockets were used, left four people injured and occurred at the same time that Palestinian demonstrators were closing the road to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp near the military hospital. The demonstrators were protesting the death of two Palestinians in a Fatah prison inside the camp last week. The road remained closed until midday.

Nasirites, Palestinians Clash in South
NC3001173189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] According to security reports from Sidon this evening, violent clashes erupted between members of the security police of the Nasirite Popular Organization and Palestinian gunmen at the northern approach to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah-al-Ta'mir area—near the Arab Bakery junction, to be precise—at about 1730 today. The clashes have so far left one person killed. The following were injured: 'Adil Ibrahim Muhammad, Gharib Khalil, and Zayd 'Abd al-Rahman Yusuf. They have been taken to Hammud Hospital in Sidon.

The same reports add that a state of extreme tension prevails in the area and that the clashes are continuing. The combatants are using rockets, machineguns, and mortars in the fighting.

Car Explodes in East Beirut; Casualties Reported
NC3001093589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] A huge explosion rocked the Al-Tahwitah area of Furn al-Shubbak [in East Beirut] at approximately 1100 today. The explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car parked in the area. [In a similar report, (clandestine) voice of The Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon at 0930 GMT adds: "The explosion took place as the motorcade of Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah was passing by."]

According to preliminary information, the explosion caused a number of casualties. Four injured persons were taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital and a number of others to Al-Hayah Hospital. Some cars were burned in the explosion.

2 Reported Dead

NC3001101789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] A booby-trapped car exploded on the Al-Tahwitah Highway as Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah's motorcade was passing by. However, Sa'adah escaped unhurt, as he himself affirmed, although the car he was riding in was heavily damaged. The rigged car exploded some distance away from the motorcade.

Eyewitnesses have said that Dr Sa'adah was taken to the Phalangist central building in an ambulance, making some people believe he was injured, particularly because this car was damaged. It transpired later, however, that he was unhurt.

According to initial reports, 2 people were killed and 12 others injured as a result of the explosion, which occurred on the Al-Tahwitah Highway opposite the cemetery a few minutes before 1100. Casualties were taken to nearby hospitals, particularly the Hotel Dieu and Al-Hayat hospitals.

Dr Sa'adah ruled out the possibility that he was the target of the attack, saying that all Lebanese are targets under the current difficult circumstances.

Israel Continues Deportation Operations in South

NC3101123789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Israeli occupation authorities' persistence in divesting the south of its inhabitants and in exerting pressure on the southern citizens who do not succumb to the Zionist will and refuse to join the agents' ranks is daily manifested in continuing deportation operations. The latest such deportations took place at 1100 today.

The occupation forces have deported four citizens to the Lebanese Army roadblock on the Kafr Milki triangle in the area of Rashayy al-Wadi through the crossing point in Zummarayya north of Hasbayya.

The new deportees are Yumna Markiz, 21; Majidah Ghadir, 29; and Insaf 'Ali al-Hinnawi. They are teachers in the government school in the town of Shab'a. This brings the total of those deported from Shab'a to 45. The fourth deportee is Yusuf Salim, 18, from the town of Hula in Marj 'Uyun district. [passage omitted]

Reinforces Military Posts

NC3101071289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] While the UN Security Council was discussing the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate yesterday, Israel reinforced its positions in the South.

According to security sources, Israeli occupation forces brought a military convoy to the occupied area of Marj 'Uyun. This convoy contained an estimated 140 military vehicles, a 150-soldier strong force, 4 large tank trucks to supply the convoy with fuel, communications equipment, and a mobile operations room and arrived in the occupied area of Marj 'Uyun through Al-Mtullah road yesterday. This force took up a position in Marj 'Uyun in the eastern sector in the South.

More on Reinforcements

NC3101111389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] It has been reported that the occupation forces and their agents are fortifying their positions on the western Al-Biqa' axis. Also, a number of bulldozers began to set up fortifications near Mazra'at Lusi, Al-Litani Bridge, and south of (Birkat al-Jabbur) yesterday morning.

According to people coming from the area, an occupation army force advanced from the Marj 'Uyun axis toward the occupied Hasbayya axis yesterday morning and took up a position alongside the militiamen in positions on 'Ayn Qinya hill and Naqqarkawkaba hill. Two tanks were stationed in the first position and three tanks in the second position.

A Zionist convoy consisting of seven vehicles was also seen entering the Zionist position on Al-Shurayfah hill east of Marj 'Uyun through the Mtullah-al-Dardarah plain road.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC3001091589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut at approximately 1020 today.

'Mock Raids' Over Sidon, Camps

NC3101090589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over the city of Sidon and its camps at approximately 1015 today. Antiaircraft fire was directed at them.

Accused Killers of Amal Leaders Handed Over

NC3001103789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Under the auspices of Iran and Syria, the Amal Movement and Hizballah are expected to sign today the comprehensive agreement which Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said has been reached following intensive talks among Iranian and Syrian officials, Amal and Hizballah representatives, and Shi'ite spiritual leaders.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of intelligence in the Syrian Armed Forces in Lebanon, who participated in the talks, declared today that the persons accused of assassinating the three Amal leaders Dawud Dawud, Mahmud al-Faqih, and Hasan Subaytah have been given up and are now in the hands of the Syrian forces. Brig Gen Kan'an also said that those accused of killing Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim have also been handed over to the Syrian forces.

Amal, Hizballah Sign Accord To End Fighting

NC3001131589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1307 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] We have just received an urgent report from Damascus: The Shi'ite leaders have signed an agreement to end the fighting between Amal and Hizballah. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters a short time ago that the agreement provides for Iran and Syria to guarantee that the agreement between Syria-sponsored Amal and Hizballah, which supports Iran, will be implemented.

'Text' of Accord

JN3001151989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jan (SANA)—An agreement was signed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah at the Foreign Ministry building this afternoon in the presence of Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council; and Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite mufti of Lebanon.

The agreement was signed for the Amal Movement by Nabih Birri, Haytham Jum'ah, Muhammad Baydun, Mahmud Abu Hamdan, and Ahmad Harb. It was also signed for Hizballah by 'Abbas al-Musawi, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Ibrahim al-Amin, Husayn Musawi, and Al-Haj Husayn Khalil.

The following is the text of the agreement:

Proceeding from commitment to the unity of Lebanon and its Arab and Islamic affiliation and full liberation from the Israeli occupation, and for the sake of fortifying it against the plots of colonialism and Zionism, achieving cooperation among the national and Islamic forces on the basis of canceling sectarian hegemony and building the state of justice and equality in Lebanon, the two sides announce that they have agreed on the following:

1. Terminating the state of fratricide and tension by implementing measures according to the following arrangement:

a. Strictly abiding by the cease-fire declared on 25 January 1989.

b. Ending the media campaigns between the two sides.

c. Evacuating the wounded from the fighting areas.

d. Lifting sieges and withdrawing from Jba' and 'Ayn Biswar [name as received] and repatriation of the inhabitants without the armed presence of any of the two sides.

e. Releasing all those detained by the two sides, and returning the deportees.

2. Forming a coordination committee from the two sides to organize relations between them on the basis of mutual recognition and cooperation.

3. Continuing resistance against the Zionist enemy and its agents until full liberation from the Israeli occupation, and setting up a joint operations room in the south to coordinate and escalate resistance operations against Israel, while stressing the two sides' right to carry out operations independently.

4. Considering the Amal Movement responsible for security in the south until the legitimate authority manages to extend its power to all the Lebanese territories, while maintaining the right of each side to carry out political, information, and cultural activity.

5. Bringing the situation back to what it was prior to 5 April 1988 in a manner that does not conflict with clause 4 of this agreement.

6. Not returning to the situation which prevailed in southern Lebanon before 1982.

7. Considering the [Beirut southern] suburb's security part of Beirut's security. The two sides pledge to implement the agreement they signed in this regard.

8. The two sides are committed not to attack the UNIFIL or the members of international organizations and bodies in Lebanon.

Leaders Comment on Accord

JN3101080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Following the signing of the accord between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made a statement to journalists expressing satisfaction with the results achieved by the joint efforts exerted by the SAR and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He emphasized the concern of the Amal Movement and Hizballah about implementing all that is included in this accord. He pointed out that Syria is guarantor of this accord.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed his happiness over the signing of this comprehensive accord by the Amal Movement and Hizballah saying that it will help the two parties cooperate to achieve further unity in Lebanon, and consequently to fight their common enemy.

Regarding the hostages issue, Dr Velayati said: Of course, no one accepts the holding of hostages. We hope that all hostages will be released in the future regardless of their nationalities. He pointed out that releasing of hostages has nothing to do with this accord.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said that the accord is a victory over egotism and over several bloody, sad, and painful incidents that took place. He said it is also a victory for the resistance in southern Lebanon and a victory for Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and Islamism. He considered the accord a new leaf that has now been turned between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

In a statement to journalists, Birri expressed deep thanks to the Syrian leadership, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, who used all his power for the sake of reaching this accord. We extend greetings and thanks to Syria, which is trying to restore cohesion in Lebanon, beginning with the south.

Regarding Hizballah's political and media return to southern Lebanon, Birri said: All people are allowed to return within the framework of the security of southern Lebanon and its people. Everyone who wants to safeguard southern Lebanon and fight Israel is permitted to return.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, said: This accord represents a very advanced stage. I am happy with it because it is a great gift to all Muslims and all those who resist the Israeli enemy and its occupation forces. He praised the great role played by the Syrian leadership, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad.

He referred to the great efforts exerted by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dr Velayati. Shaykh Shams al-Din said that the accord is the fruit of efforts exerted by all sides. He said that the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council will, along with the brothers in Syria and Iran, follow up the good implementation of this accord.

On the role of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in implementing the accord, he said: Undoubtedly, the Council considers this accord a great achievement. It will spare no effort to cooperate with both sides and all people to implement what has been agreed upon.

Hizballah official Ibrahim al-Amin said that the accord will be implemented. He said that we are all ready and determined to implement the accord, which was our utmost hope. Al-Amin praised the efforts of Syria and Iran, and their support for reaching this accord. He pointed out that the accord is guaranteed and supported by the Iranian and Syrian sides, which puts it within the framework of implementation.

On the hostages issue, Al-Amin said: We have no connection with the hostages issue. Moreover, the accord has nothing to do with hostages. He pointed out that a four-member coordination committee has been set up between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to study all matters and establish better relations than those of the past.

Velayati on Compensation

NC3101073889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Syrian-Iranian-sponsored agreement between Amal and Hizballah has now been put to the test. How effective it will be in ending the inter-Shi'ite conflict remains to be seen. [passage omited]

Hizballah official Ibrahim al-Amin has stressed determination to put the agreement into effect, noting the two parties' desire to turn the page of the past. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expects further cooperation between the two sides in the future.

For his part, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati took up the financial part of the deal. He expressed his country's readiness to provide financial assistance to both the Amal Movement and Hizballah in compensation for the losses they had incurred during the fighting. [passage omitted]

According to reports received from Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning, intermittent bursts from machineguns were heard throughout the night along the traditional combat lines, with some shells falling in the area at 0100 in the morning.

Fadlallah Leaves for Tehran

NC2901182489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah left Damascus for Tehran today for consultations with the Iranian leadership on the issue of the Amal-Hizballah conflict. [passage omitted]

Velayati Departs

JN3001170989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Iran's foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon. On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Faruq al-Shar'; Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal; Foreign Ministry officials; and Iran's ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Afghanistan

Soviet Commander Confirms 15 Feb Withdrawal Date

OW3101142289 Tokyo KYODO in English 1410 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 31 KYODO—The Soviet Union will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan by February 15, Soviet Commander Gen. Boris Gromov confirmed Tuesday.

Gromov told a press conference, however, that the Soviet Union will leave a few military advisers in Afghanistan after the pullout of its troops.

Soviet troops must leave Afghanistan by February 15 under the Geneva accords brokered by the United Nations last April.

Evacuation To End 'This Week'

BK3101091089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 31 (AFP) - Soviet troops, with a massive airlift, will complete the evacuation of Afghanistan this week, almost 10 days ahead of the agreed date, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

Quoting Soviet sources in Kabul, the diplomats said the troops pull out would now be completed between February 2 and 6.

Salang Highway Fighting Resumes; Kabul Bombed

BK3101013889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0128 GMT 31 Jan 89

[By Yves de Saint Jacob]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 31 (AFP)—Fighting raged along the vital road linking Kabul with the Soviet Union Monday and bombings shook the Afghan capital as the U.S. and other foreign embassies closed amid growing turmoil.

The clashes on the Salang highway, reported by the Soviet news agency TASS, were apparently preventing desperately needed food and fuel from reaching Kabul.

People have starved or died of cold in the snow- and fog-bound city under blockade by mujahidin rebels.

A bomb planted in a lorry and another in a hand-cart injured several people here Monday as rebels launched regular rocket attacks from the surrounding hills.

TASS accused the rebels of robbing food convoys and hoarding food while Kabul starved.

Soviet Politburo member Yuriy Maslyukov, head of Gosplan, the State Planning Commission, left for Moscow after talks with Afghan officials on ending the blockade.

TASS said plans to supply food to Kabul and other parts of the country had been decided at the talks.

Mr. Maslyukov also reassured President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government of continued aid from Moscow after February 15, the deadline for the total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The delegation headed by Mr. Maslyukov included Finance Minister Boris Gostev and External Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev.

The flag came down at the U.S. Embassy as foreign diplomatic missions began an evacuation hampered by a blanket of fog and snow.

In a brief ceremony, four camouflage-clad marines took down the Stars and Stripes, folded it carefully and gave it to charge d'affaires John Glassman for safekeeping.

"We will return as soon as the conflict is over," Mr. Glassman said in a short speech. "The Afghan people will have peace and freedom again... We wish all the best to the Afghan people."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker ordered the embassy closed due to growing fears for the lives of foreign diplomats here after the Soviet pullout.

There are fears the rebels will attack the city in a final bid to wrest political control from the Najibullah government, which many observers believe will not last more than a few months after the last Soviet troops leave.

"I think the Soviets made the right decision (to withdraw), but they should stop now further military operations," Mr Glassman said in an apparent allusion to U.S. claims that Soviet forces have conducted an average 100 bombing raids a day since November 1.

But Afghan officials have dismissed Western reports that said hundreds of civilians died last week in Soviet reprisal bombings along the Salang highway.

As the violence escalated, India ordered its embassy in Kabul to evacuate the wives and children of staff, and China also said it was studying measures to protect its diplomats.

China had made a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan a condition for normalizing relations with the Soviet Union, a process expected to culminate in a Sino-Soviet summit later this year.

Britain, France, West Germany and Japan have also said they will close their embassies in anticipation of a rebel offensive on Kabul after February 15.

Some Western diplomats think the Soviets have been trying in recent days to make Kabul look like an "open city" with business going on as usual, thus hoping to spare the capital of the devastation that could result from a full-scale rebel offensive.

Several possible scenarios—ranging from a military coup to a slow deterioration over a period of months—have been suggested for the Afghan capital following the departure of the last Soviet troops.

A Western diplomat quoting Afghan security sources said Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov spent two days here last week in a bid to "soften the hard core of the Afghan Army and get it to accept the concept of an open city rather than a besieged city."

Under the "open city" scenario, General Najibullah could be persuaded to step down, while the mujahidin resistance and the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan would guarantee security in the capital.

United Nations observers and the U.N. Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan could then play a key part in helping to prevent the collapse of the fragile city.

An unofficial Soviet source here said negotiations between Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Yuliy Vorontsov and the mujahidin would resume soon.

Armed Forces Combat Operations 29-30 Jan

LD3001173889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The units and companies of our country's Armed Forces have carried out successful combat operations in some parts of Parvan and Qandahar provinces. As a result, heavy loss of life was inflicted on the extremist warmongering groups.

BAKHTAR's military section, quoting a reliable source in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, reports as follows on the military situation in the last 24 hours:

In Parvan Province: The units and companies of the country's Armed Forces dealt crushing blows to the warmongering elements in the regions of Olang, Salang, and (Torana) and in the Panjsher, Khenjan, and (Sorkhol) valleys. As a result of these blows, 128 warmongering extremists were killed, including an Arab and two Pakistani advisers. In the course of these operations a 76-mm gun, 4 rocket launchers, [words indistinct] machine guns, a rocket system, 5 DShK's, 100 Kalashnikovs, 5 radio systems, and a food depot were destroyed. Also in the course of these operations a member of our Armed Forces was martyred and four others were wounded.

According to another report, as a result of recent Armed Forces operations in Parvan Province, seven extremist ringleaders were killed—(Aborab), (Mullah Qaus), ('Aziz), (Baser), ('Azizuddin), (Sorkhan), and (Gaylani). The report adds that in the course of these operations, 327 sacks of flour, 30 sacks of sugar, and 61 sacks of rice which had been plundered by the criminal extremists and hidden in the region of Tajekha were also seized.

Armed Forces activities in Bagram District resulted in two members of the Khalis group being killed and one injured.

Another report from Parvan Province says that heavy fighting took place in the vicinity of Nejrab District between the Gulbuddin and (Rabi) groups. As a result of this fighting, six members of Gulbuddin's group were killed and two members of (Rabi's) group were captured.

Qandahar: In the course of Armed Forces activities and clean up operations in Daman District and other parts of Qandahar Province, 27 extremists were killed; 57 mines and 2 boxes of DShK cartridges belonging to the enemy were seized; and 5 Kalashnikovs, a 32-mm gun and 7 rocket launchers were destroyed. According to another report, as a result of heavy-weapons fire in the residential areas of Qandahar city, a child was martyred and a woman was injured.

Two security officials were wounded by extremist fire at security posts along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway in Nangarhar Province.

According to security forces, the Kabul-Jalalabad highway is open to traffic and vehicles are travelling normally on the highway.

Paktia Province: A member of the Armed Forces was wounded when seven rockets were fired into Gardeyz city.

Laghman Province: Heavy clashes took place among extremist groups in the vicinity of Alisheng. Seven were killed from both sides, including one of the group's ringleaders.

Herat Province: As a result of heavy clashes between the groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani in the vicinity of Herat city, six persons were killed from both sides.

Farah Province: During clashes in the vicinity of Qal'eh Kah District between extremists groups, five persons were killed.

Ammunition Seized in Qandahar

LD2901174889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Weapons and ammunition which were being transported from Herat Province to Qandahar city to disrupt the peaceful life of the citizens of Qandahar were discovered and seized by security personnel. An authorized source told a Radio Afghanistan reporter the following:

Extremist elements were transporting by truck number plate 302 a quantity of weapons from Herat Province to Qandahar Province. The weapons, which had been placed inside soap boxes, were hidden in a room at the (Fabrika Saray). We were informed by patriots of Qandahar Province. When we opened the boxes we found 1,000 rounds of ammunition in each. There were a total of 100 boxes, with more than 100,000 rounds inside. The extremists intended to wipe out our elderly men, our young people, our sisters and our small children. However, the Armed Forces were vigilant and foiled this plot in time.

Mujahidin Down 2 Helicopters at Qandahar Airport

BK3101061289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, in a recent attack on Qandahar airport, mujahidin destroyed two Kabul regime helicopters and killed their pilots. Another report indicates that the mujahidin destroyed two military vehicles and killed eight Kabul regime troops. In addition, two Kabul regime troop commanders in Herat Province joined the mujahidin along with 430 militiamen.

Army Officer: Jalalabad on 'Verge on Collapse'

LD3001173989 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan. 30. IRNA—According to the Afghan news agency an Afghan Army major who was the assistant political chief in the communication regiment of Jalalabad Army division recently defected to the Afghan mujahidin and laid down his Kalashinkov.

APP in its report monitored Monday in London said the Army major questioned the Kabul regime's legitimacy to rule and added that Afghan mujahidin are the real power to establish a government of their own without any outside pressure.

The news agency without mentioning the officer's name quoted him as saying that the besieged city of Jalalabad was on the verge of collapse, but the mujahidin were exercising utmost restraint on humanitarian grounds.

Kabul-Gardeyz Highway Reopened to Traffic

LD2801094689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—Hundreds of the state employees, members of social and party organisations as well as personnel of the Armed Forces stationed in Gardeyz city, centre of Paktia Province, launched on Thursday a voluntary work repairing a part of Kabul-Gardeyz highway and building some bridges as well, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent from Gardeyz city.

Twenty-five km of Kabul-Gardeyz highway which was blocked on traffic for seven months as a result of the subversive actions of the extremists has been recently reopened to traffic and strong military posts have been set up along the said highway as well.

'Abdul Rashid Waziri, responsible for party control office of the PDPA CC, M. Anwar Hasel, governor of Paktia and other leading personalities of Paktia Province participated at the voluntary work as well.

PDPA May Offer Cease-Fire, 'Open City'

BK3001124089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan 30 (AFP)—The Kabul government may propose a new unilateral ceasefire soon coinciding with the final phase of a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan set to be completed by February 15, a ranking Afghan official said Monday.

Some Western diplomats think the Soviets have been trying in recent days to make the Afghan capital appear an "open city" so that the warring sides of the Afghan conflict would allow economic life to continue, staving off possible devastation of the city, as they await a political solution.

The ranking Afghan official said that the Kabul government may propose a new unilateral ceasefire in the coming days or at the end of the Soviet withdrawal.

Afghan President Najibullah had proposed a ceasefire at the end of last year, but the offer was rejected by the mujahidin resistance.

A symbolic ceasefire offer as the Soviets are leaving Afghan soil may stand out as a response to the Soviets' overall wish for reduced tension amid the pullout.

Several possible scenarios have been suggested for the Afghan capital and its vicinity following the departure of the last Soviet troops, from an internal military coup to a slow disintegration of the situation over a period of months.

A Western diplomat quoting Afghan security sources said Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov is in Kabul "to soften the hard core of the Afghan Army and get it to accept the concept of an open city rather than a besieged city."

Under the "open city" scenario, Afghan President Najibullah could be persuaded to step down and the mujahidin resistance and the now-ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan would set about guaranteeing normal economic life and minimal security in the capital.

Events in January, including an economic blockade by the rebels causing food and fuel shortages, have illustrated the Afghan capital's fragility.

Supplying food in Kabul, which has been partly organised by the Soviets since January 20, will become even more difficult after the Soviet troops leave, observers say.

Under the "open city" hypothesis, the role of United Nations observers and the United Nations Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan may take on new dimensions and the Afghan Government's invitation to U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to visit Kabul would be renewed.

An unofficial Soviet source here said negotiations between Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Yuliy Vorontsov and the mujahidin would resume soon, probably in Pakistan.

Najibullah Meets With USSR's Maslyukov

LD3001155689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] This morning at the presidential headquarters, esteemed Afghan President Najibullah continued his talks with Yuriy Maslyukov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, and head of a high-ranking Soviet delegation.

During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, views were exchanged on topics of mutual interest, in particular on the expansion of bilateral relations in the economic, trade, and cultural spheres.

The meeting was also attended by Yuliy Vorontsov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan and ended with full understanding on the topics of mutual interest.

Mujahidin Urge USSR To Review Policy

BK3001023489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] At a meeting of the Islamic Alliance of the Mujahidin of Afghanistan in Peshawar yesterday, the latest developments and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's forthcoming visit to Pakistan were reviewed. In a statement issued at the end of the meeting, the mujahidin alliance said all Afghan mujahidin are united and determined to liberate Afghanistan and establish an Islamic government in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan people.

The alliance called on the Soviet Union to review its policy on Afghanistan and to respect the Afghan people's right to self-determination, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

The mujahidin alliance also rejected Radio Kabul's propaganda, which is aimed at creating misunderstandings between the mujahidin and Pakistan.

Indian Embassy Orders Families To Leave Kabul

BK3001124389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Families of the staff of the Indian mission in Kabul are being withdrawn in phases. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that some of the Indian families have already been withdrawn. He said this is being done in view of the security situation there.

Replying to questions, the spokesman said the Indian ambassador and the staff are very much in Kabul and the embassy is functioning.

International Red Cross Committee To Remain

LD2801102989 Berne International Service in English
1000 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says it will maintain its presence in Afghanistan, despite the departure of many foreign diplomats from the country. A spokesman for the Geneva-based ICRC said its operations were being respected by both the Afghan authorities and the rebels. He added that all necessary measures had been taken to ensure the continued safety of its 60 personnel in Afghanistan, about 40 of whom are Swiss.

Pakistani Violations of Geneva Accords Reported

197th Note Submitted

LD2801095689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—The 197th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the Pakistani violations from the provisions of the Geneva accords was submitted to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today by the liaison office of the Foreign Ministry of the RA with the UNGOMAP.

The notice gave precise information on the 13 instances of flagrant violations from the second article, document number one of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and demanded from the mission to assess the violations on the basis of article number seven, document four of the Geneva accords.

198th, 199th Notes

LD2901064589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 28, BAKHTAR—The 198th and 199th notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva agreement were submitted today to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) office in Kabul.

Precise information on 21 instances of the violations were given in the notices as well as about sending the convoys of weapons and ammunitions from the territory of Pakistan to the Afghan armed extremists. The notices stipulate that the extremists by using the lethal weapons are continuing attacks on the cities causing the death of the innocent people.

The UNGOMAP has been asked to investigate the violations according to para 7 document no 4 of the Geneva agreement.

200th Notice Given

LD3001061689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 29, BAKHTAR—The 200th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was submitted today to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP, office in Kabul.

Precise information was given in the notice about the despatch of the convoys of arms and ammunitions from the territory of Pakistan to Afghan armed extremists. The extremists by using these lethal weapons have kept on their attacks on cities causing the death of innocent inhabitants.

The notice asks the UN mission to investigate the violations according to para 7 document no. 4 of the Geneva agreement.

201st Note Submitted

LD3101094789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 30, BAKHTAR—The two hundred first notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice all-sided information of the dispatching of caravans of arms and ammunition from the Pakistani territory to extremist groups inside the Republic of Afghanistan, which is in complete contravention with the provisions of the Geneva accords, are given.

The notice asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of paragraph 7, document number 4 of the Geneva accords investigate the mentioned Pakistai violations.

Food, Fuel Supplies Arrive in Kabul City

LD2901155989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] BIA reports that despite vain efforts by the extremists to block the highways, foodstuffs and fuel have arrived in Kabul city in the last 2 days. The report adds that during recent operations along the Salang highway, a number of extremists, who had been plundering the convoys of foodstuffs and fuel, were killed.

During the operations, in addition to destroying the enemy's arms and ammunition depots, stores of goods plundered from convoys were discovered. Refrigerators, televisions, electricity equipment, building materials, carpets, flour, ghee, rice, sugar and dozens of other goods, which were plundered from state convoys and national businessmen were seized from these stores.

The report adds that at a time when Kabul citizens are facing shortages in flour, sugar, ghee, rice and other foodstuffs, the armed extremists were building their defense trenches with sacks of flour and rice. Other stores of flour, rice and sugar which were not needed by the extremists were dumped in the river and fuel tanks were destroyed to cause food and fuel shortages for Kabul citizens.

The report adds that Kabul citizens who have to wait in long lines on cold winter nights in order to receive food and fuel, express their hatred of the extremists who want to impose hardship and difficulties on the inhabitants of the cities. The people's hatred for the extremists who want to encircle the cities, has forced the opposition leaders to announce that members belonging to their groups will not plunder or block the transporation of convoys.

Nangarhar Governor Views Armed Forces Role

LD2801094389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—As a whole the conditions are good in Nangarhar Province and the Armed Forces based in Jalalabad are fully capable to defend Nangarhar Province and its surrounding in close cooperation of the citizens of that province.

This was said by General Manukay Mangal, governor of Nangarhar Province in a telephone interview granted to a radio-TV representative.

The enemies, he went on to say, wanted to launch a war in which foreign forces, such as Pakistan and US forces took part as well. They wanted to occupy Jalalabad city and Nangarhar Province.

But fortunately the Armed Forces inflicted heavy blows on the enemies and their armoured vehicles, arms and munitions were destroyed and their four planes were shot down as well.

The governor added that around four hundred extremists were killed during the war.

In the last part of his interview the governor assured the people of Afghanistan that the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar are completely able to foil any plot of the extremists and defend Nangarhar bravely against any kind of aggression.

Najibullah Approves Military Conscription Decree

LD2801194989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The office of the presidency reported that esteemed Afghan President Najibullah approved government decree No 160, dated 30 November 1988, of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan. The law concerns the manner in which graduates of medical and educational institutions inside and outside the country serve military conscription terms. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan has been commissioned to present this decree to the first session of the Meli Shura for approval.

Sayyed Sharaf Appointed Attorney General

LD2901162389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The office of the Presidency reports that esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, in accordance with Article 119 of the Constitution, approved the appointment of Sayyed Sharafuddin Sharaf, son of Sayyed Nasruddin, as attorney general of the Republic of Afghanistan.

India

Defense Minister on Plans To Boost Arms Exports

BK3001121689 Hong Kong AFP in English
1157 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 30 (AFP)—India plans to step up its modest arms exports, but will retain the option of choosing who buys them, Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant said here Monday.

The government has decided to enhance defence exports, he told a press conference, stressing that the step would in no way affect India's traditional foreign policy based on non-alignment.

"I don't see how non-alignment enters the picture," the minister said. "This is a commercial sale... With increased defence capability, we can also export and there is no reason why we shoudn't do so."

But "we will be careful what kinds of weapons we send and where we send," he added. "Our foreign policy perceptions will govern the sales."

Mr Pant said queries about what India could supply had already come from some countries, whom he did not name.

He added that India was having discussions with the Soviet Union on the possibility of exporting military hardware produced here under license from Moscow.

India is one of the world's largest weapons importers and has in the past exported arms on a small scale to neighbouring countries.

Domestic defence production during fiscal 1986-87 was worth 2.36 billion dollars. Exports during the same year earned less than nine million dollars—an insignificant figure in a market worth 35 billion dollars annually.

Mr Pant also spoke about India's military presence in Sri Lanka, relations with China and Pakistan, and the situation in Afghanistan. "There is every indication that there would be an improvement in our (Sino-Indian) relationship in the coming months and years," the minister said in a written statement at the start of the press conference.

He added that resolving the two countries' border dispute "must be a part of the eventual settlement between our two countries."

India and China fought a brief border war in 1962. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Beijing in December—the first visit to China by an Indian leader in 34 years.

The statement said New Delhi would consider "a progressive withdrawal" of its estimated 45,000-50,000 troops from Sri Lanka's north and east when the ground situation improves but "the exact time-frame for this will depend on a number of factors."

He hinted that the factors include the situation in Sri Lanka's Southern Province, where Sinhalese extremists have stepped up violence ahead of February 15 general elections in the troubled nation.

"I have not talked to President (Ranasinghe) Premadasa about this," he said. "But (former President Junius) Jayewardene had expressed his sentiments in this regard."

New Delhi sent troops into Sri Lanka's predominantly Tamil north and east under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Mr Pant expressed optimism about improvement in ties between India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since independence, and hoped the civilian government would cease supporting "(Sikh) terrorists and other unlawful elements."

New Delhi has in the past accused Pakistan of supporting Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland called Khalistan. Pakistan's new prime minister Benazir Bhutto has said she will not support the militants.

On Afghanistan, Mr Pant said India would like an "independent and non-aligned" government in Kabul. "We hope the situation (there) moves in a manner which stops further bloodshed."

India has neither supported nor condemned the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Delhi Reports Plans

BK3001155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] India has decided to export arms and defense equipment in a big way. An organization is being set up in the defense ministry to carry out necessary surveys. This was announced to newsmen by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, at a meet the press program in New Delhi.

In reply to a question about Indo-Pakistan talks on Siachen, he said there are reasons for optimism about improvement in bilateral relations in coming months. He said there is also indication of improvement in Sino-Indian relations following the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's recent visit to China.

About Sri Lanka, Mr Pant said the situation on the ground has improved and the objectives of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord have been achieved.

Communique Issued on Nguyen Van Linh Visit

BK3001091289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] India and Vietnam have called for linking the Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea with the cessation of all foreign interference and assistance for solving the Kampuchean problem. In a joint communique, the two countries said that Vietnam's announcement on the complete withdrawal of its forces from Kampuchea by September this year, if a negotiated political solution was found by then, had lent an impetus to the process of restoring peace and stability in the region.

The communique was issued at the end of Vietnam Communist Party General Secretary Mr Nguyen Van Linh's 6-day visit to India. It urged for continuing the current dialogue on Kampuchea for a political settlement that would ensure the sovereign, independent, nonaligned and peaceful Kampuchea.

The communique said that the two sides welcomed the Jakarta Informal Meeting process, the initiatives taken within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, the dialogue in Paris, and the bilateral discussions between various countries on the Kampuchean question. The Vietnamese side highly appreciated India's role and contribution to peace and stability in Southeast Asia in the past 40 years and to the process of searching for a political solution to the Kampuchean issue at present.

Further on Communique

BK3001162889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] India and Vietnam feel that peace can return to Kampuchea only when there is simultaneous withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and end of all foreign interferences in that country. A joint communique issued in New Delhi today says that Vietnamese offer of complete withdrawal of its forces from Kampuchea by September this year, if a political solution is negotiated by then, has quickened the process of restoring peace and stability in the region.

The communique was issued at the end of the Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Mr Nguyen Van Linh's 6-day visit to India. It further said India and Vietnam firmly uphold the rights of the Kampuchean people to freely determine their own destiny and live without the fear of the return of the genocidal policies and practices of the Pol Pot regime.

Vietnam said it is of the view that India has an important role to play in keeping the Southeast Asia a zone of peace.

The two sides also welcomed the Geneva accords on Afghanistan and said, if sincerely implemented, these can pave the way for return of peace and stability in the strife-torn country.

They also noted that more friendly India-China relations will enhance peace and stability in Asia and the world.

The two sides also expressed the hope that relations between Vietnam and China will be mobilized on the basis of Pancasil—the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Reviewing the present bilateral relations between India and Vietnam, both sides noted that political relations were excellent and economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries have also been growing steadily.

R. D. Pradhan Appointed Bihar State Governor

BK2901071489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Mr R.D. Pradhan has been appointed governor of Bihar. Mr Pradhan will continue to be governor of Arunachal Pradesh also.

Non-Ruling Party Ministers Meet in Calcutta

BK2801100189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 89

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, today called for a balanced redistribution of powers between the states and the center to make the nation strong. Opening a conference of six non-Congress-I chief ministers in Calcutta this morning, he said this will invigorate the states as well as the center.

Mr Jyoti Basu criticized what he described as overcentralization of power—administrative, legislative and financial—by the union government. He alleged that the role of governors is of late being dictated by the center, creating obstacle in the functioning of the states.

He said the Sarkaria Commission [dealing with center-state relations] had commented adversely on the practice of appointing persons who are in active politics at the center as governors. He stressed the need for an inter-state council comprising the prime minister and chief ministers to decide important matters involving the center and the states, including the appointment of governors.

Mr Basu regretted that devolution of resources or grants from the center to the states had also fallen far short of the requirements.

The conference being attended by Mr Devi Lal, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, Mr S.R. Bommai, Mr E.K. Nayanar, Mr P.K. Mahanta besides Mr Jyoti Basu, who convened it, is focusing on restructuring the center-state relations with more financial powers to the states.

Iran

Tehran Radio Executives Face Prison Terms

LD3101103889 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Four executives of Tehran Radio were sacked and sentenced to varying prison terms and corporal punishment for airing an un-Islamic interview Saturday which in the opinion of the court notoriously misportrayed the ruling mentality of the Iranian women. The judgment was issued by the first bench of the 135th branch of the penal court Tuesday.

Tehran Radio in its morning service on Saturday offered a programme on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh)'s daughter Hazdhrat Fatimar (AS). Among other parts it also featured short casual interviews with women in the city streets in relation with "the women's day" which is celebrated annually on the 20th of Jamadi-II in the lunar hegira calendar, this year falling of January 28.

Imam Khomeyni personally reacted to the radio program and in a letter to the managing director of the Iranian radio and television Mohammad Hashemi Sunday called for a query into the issue by an applicable law court in Tehran.

Paradoxically the programme was produced by "The Islamic Ideology Group" of the radio on the occasion of Women's Day, and was meant to offer a "symbol of Mulsim women" in Iran.

Broadcast director Mohammad Arab Mazar-Yazdi received five years prison term, and Mahmud Abdulqasemi director of Islamic Ideology Group, Hamid Khunmeri in charge of supervisory section, and editor of ideological programs Mohammad Rasekh were each sentenced to four years of imprisonment and 50 lashes.

The court said investigation had proved the absence of any malicious intention on the part of the program directors and its staff.

U.S. Compensation of Iranair Victims Sought

LD3001182289 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan. 30, IRNA—The indirect messages sent to Tehran by U.S. President George Bush are inadequate and need further clarification, THE WASHINGTON POST has suggested.

In his inaugural address and repeated at a conference last Friday, Bush focused upon gaining Iran's help over the release of American hostages from Lebanon and said such help would be "long remembered" and held out the prospect of "excellent relations."

The paper in reference to getting Iran's possible assistance, said the President should make it "plain that the United States will respond positively."

The call from the daily is the latest in a series of exchanges between the U.S. and Iranian press and follow criticism from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i that Bush in trying to resume relations with Tehran was setting "conditions."

Speaking in Friday prayers at Tehran University, President Khamene'i said Washington should first stop being oppressive and arrogant and unfreeze the billions of dollars of Iranian assets in the U.S.

His comments were added to by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, who said if the U.S. wanted to show goodwill, Bush could at least pay token compensation to the 295 Iranian passengers and crew killed in a U.S. missile attack last July.

Also speaking in an interview at the weekend, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati believed that initially Washington had to change its hostile attitude towards Iran and accept the reality of the Islamic revolution, which this week celebrates its 10th anniversary.

"Times have changed," the minister said, but as yet could not see any indication from Bush, who was still committing himself to following the policy of the Reagan administration.

Velayati Comments on Amal-Hizballah Negotiations

Accord 'Blessed Beginning'

LD3001182489 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday termed the Amal-Hizballah decision to bury the hatchet as "a blessed beginning" for uniting all Islamic and progressive forces against the illicit Zionist regime.

The accord which was formally concluded today after lengthy mediation efforts by Iran and Syria, was termed by Velayati as a "manifestation of Tehran-Damascus cooperation for ending Lebanon's crisis."

At the end of his Damascus visit, the second within a week, the Iranian foreign minister said the objective of his coming to Syria was to resolve the Lebanese fratricide.

He stressed that a new chapter of brotherly relations should be opened between Amal and Hizballah, and distrust must be replaced by goodwill after the agreement is inked.

Lauding the leaders of both the belligerent groups for finally heeding reason, Velayati promised "the Islamic Republic's readiness to compensate part of the damages resulting from the unwarranted clashes."

Returns From Damascus

NC3101065889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who had gone to Syria as head of a delegation to solve the differences between Lebanon's Amal Movement and Hizballah, returned to Tehran last night.

The Central News Unit reports that during his 3-day visit to Syria, the foreign minister held concise talks with Syrian officials and leaders of Lebanon's Amal and Hizballah to solve differences between the said groups. These talks brought about a comprehensive reconciliation between Amal and Hizballah and an agreement which they signed.

On Iraqi Agreement

LD3101135289 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—The Islamic Republic considers Iraq's agreement to the formation of a joint military committee as a "positive step in the trend of the peace talks," the foreign minister said Tuesday.

'Ali Akbar Velayati said "we favor the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 and the establishment of a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iran and Iraq.

"Both the Iranian and Iraqi nations can and should establish friendly relations because of their joint religious, historical, cultural, communal and traditional ties after a lasting peace is established."

The idea of forming the joint Iran-Iraq military committee was proposed first by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar during the first round of the Geneva peace talks last August, which was immediately accepted by Iran, he told a press conference here.

Although Iraq rejected the proposal during the three rounds of the peace talks in Geneva and New York but at last agreed to the idea after a five-month delay, Velayati said.

He called on the U.N. secretary-general and the Security Council to seriously deal with the withdrawal of military forces to their internationally-recognized border as stipulated in the second paragraph of Article 1 of Resolution 598.

The foreign minister cautioned "it is no use renewing the peace talks unless military forces withdraw to internationally-recognized borders."

Referring to the recently-concluded peace agreement between Hizballah and Amal in Lebanon following joint mediation efforts by Iran and Syria, Velayati said:

"A complete halt to the hostilities, the decision made by both parties to continue joint struggle against Zionist troops in Israeli-occupied regions in Lebanon and return of Hizballah fighters to southern Lebanon are among most important achievements of the peace agreement."

Velayati disclosed that a committee composed of two Hizballah and two Amal representatives will be set up soon to seriously pursue the enforcement of the peace pact.

"Members of a joint military committee responsible for organizing Lebanese Shi'ite forces against the Zionist regime will be made known in a near future," he said.

On the Amal Movement's demand for extradition of those responsible for assassinating three Amal commanders, Velayati said it was agreed that those suspected on involvement in the murder including Hizballah Alim Shaykh 'Ali Karim be handed over to Syria for interrogation.

"A murder has happened and a person from Amal or Hizballah has been killed. According to the Islamic shari'ah (laws), anybody accused of murder should be sued," Velayati noted.

The foreign minister hailed Vice Speaker of Lebanon's Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Mohammad Mahdi Shams al-Din for his effective role in removing differences between Shi'ite groups.

The Islamic Republic has helped, and will continue to help any Lebanese Muslim individual or group intending to struggle against the Zionist regime, Velayati said, adding "after the Amal-Hizballah agreement, these assistances will cover more groups."

Fadlallah Praises Amal-Hizballah Accord

LD3101093589 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—The prominent Lebanese Shi'ite Alim, Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Tuesday lauded the agreement reached between Amal-Hizballah forces in Damascus Monday through mediation efforts of Iran and Syria.

Fadlallah who is currently here attending the 10-Day-Dawn celebrations, marking the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, told IRNA that the accord will pave the way for a full cooperation of the two Lebanese Shi'ite groups in their struggle against Zionist regime.

He also added that the move will enable the two groups to reconstruct the war-torn Lebanon based upon freedom and justice for all.

Fadlallah also praised continuous efforts of Iran and Syria in conclusion of the accord. He said these efforts showed interest of the two countries in unifying the Lebanese militant groups in their struggle against common enemies of Islam both inside and outside Lebanon.

He appealed to both sides to respect the agreement and help unity of the Muslims.

Commentary Hails Efforts With Syria in Lebanon

LD3101123389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Finally, after several days of joint efforts by Iran and Syria, the two Shi'ite Lebanese paramilitary groups, Hizballah and Amal, reached a final agreement to end their regrettable clashes. Following the signing of the agreement, Foreign Minister Velayati called it a comprehensive agreement between Shi'ite brothers which could be an auspicious start for the unification of all national and Islamic forces throughout the region to fight the Zionist regime and a result of the friendship and close ties between the two fraternal countries—Iran and Syria—in ending the problems of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

A condition outside the framework of the agreement also has been implemented. A high-ranking Syrian officer has said that the killers of three Amal leaders have been handed over to the Syrian forces by Hizballah and that Amal has handed over the murderer of a clergyman affiliated to Hizballah.

The agreement contains the basic conditions set by each side to end the clashes. It is now clear that this agreement could have been, and should have been reached before, so that the anti-Zionist front in Lebanon would not have been weakened and the divisionist rightwing faction would not have gained more power.

In any case, considering the fact that anything is possible in Lebanon, it is clear that those who lost out because of yesterday's agreement are attempting to bring the same fate to the new agreement as past ones, by firing a number of shots and assassinating a few people. Therefore, it seems that the saboteurs, about whose treason there can remain no doubt, should be dealt with decisively.

Although there are still a number of issues remaining to be resolved between Amal and Hizballah, reaching an agreement is a giant and valuable step that will end the bloodshed and show afterward that there is always the possibility for an agreement. Yesterday's pact between Hizballah and Amal is a firm basis for solving other disputes and also shows the mutual willingness and efforts of Iran and Syria to preserve unity in Lebanon and combat divisionists and the Zionist regime.

KEYHAN HAVAI Publishes Text of Cooper Letter

PM3001160689 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 25 Jan 89 pp 15-26

[Text of letter written by British prisoner Roger Cooper]

[Text] Tehran, News Service of KEYHAN HAVAI, 26 Dey, 16 January—[KEYHAN HAVAI introduction] Roger Cooper, the man imprisoned on charges of spying for Britain, has written a letter in Persian following the establishment of ties between Iran and Britain. This letter was made available to the press by officials. The letter has been printed without corrections, with all spelling and other errors intact so that its spirit would not be altered. However, the spelling and form of some of the words which, if left alone, would have caused confusion in the mind of the reader, have been corrected and placed in brackets.

Roger Cooper talks about relations between the two countries from the coup that toppled Mosadeq, the policy of British interference in Iranian affairs, London's reaction to the success of the revolution, its position with regard to the taking of the Nest of Spies [former American Embassy in Tehran], the Iran-Iraq war and British policies in that regard, coordination of policies between Washington and London with regard to Iran, the break in diplomatic relations, the restoration of ties, and the future of these ties.

What is important is that Roger Cooper lived in Iran as a businessman and this is what British officials stress. Meanwhile the substance of the letter and the views expressed speak of a political man well aware of the issues arising from British policies. This indicates that in reality Cooper is a political man and not a simple businessman. This article should inform the British public and the British press of the issue of Cooper and of the charge against him: espionage.

[Text of Cooper letter] British foreign policy, as well as that of the West with regard to Iran and the role of the British Embassy in determining this policy: This is not a good opportunity to fully examine British policy toward Iran in the past 200 years or to go into any great detail. But since a review of the background and the history of these relations in unavoidable, for the present we shall designate a particular point in time, namely, 19 August 1953. Second from a historical viewpoint, we can regard Mr Parsons' remarks, published in the Iranian press, as a kind of half-confession about the type of relations that existed between Britain and Iran in the old days.

Despite the fact that Mr Parsons left his last diplomatic post 2-3 years ago, what he has written constitutes an important step in reaching the truth and understanding the issue. It is expected that from now on the British Government will grant much greater opportunities and facilities to experts and historians of this special period for them to uncover any suspicious aspects of the events. It must be admitted that Parsons did not elaborate on the word "old" in his interview, but perhaps he means before 19 August 1953, since this writer has heard similar admissions from a small group of righteous diplomats—of course in private and confidential conversations, not in public. In any case, the last time Britain played the role of wolf, compared to the sheep which was Iran, was that date in 1953. After that relations were more or less on an equal footing.

The Iranian officials think that in reality Britain was, and remained, the "old colonialist" until the summer of 1987 and even the present. Now, after dozens of meetings in Geneva, New York and Vienna, comprising more than 50 hours of talks, both sides have reached an agreement not to interfere in one another's affairs, which of course means British interference in Iran and not the other way around.

If England shows its sincerity in this agreement, it will be the first time there has been equality between the two nations. Although sometimes before the revolution some British officials—including, on the diplomatic side, Parsons and some of his young colleagues and, on the political side, Dr Owen, then foreign minister, and Callaghan, then prime minister before Mrs Thatcher—behaved better toward Iran and held a more realistic view of this country. Unfortunately with the coming to power of Mrs Thatcher, this positive trend ended and after that Britain followed the same hostile reaction to Iran as that of the United States. Of course since Ronald Reagan recently remarked that Mrs Thatcher is the greatest politician he has met in 8 years, it would not be surprising if in this case the United States was following British policies.

In any case there is no doubt that in the quarter-century from 1953 through the success of the revolution Britain lost its dreams in Iran to the United States. If it regarded Iran in a strategic way, it was always as a member of NATO and CENTO, not as an independent superpower which for 200 years had the title of "old colonialist." Yes, from then on the British goals in Iran were more to do with commerce than strategy, especially since the British strategists had realized that there was less danger of communist influence in Iran.

In other words, the British wolf turned into a scavenger. Of course I cannot comment on whether or not relations between Iran and Britain were legitimate. But I do say that in my experience it is not so easy to exploit an Iranian. If Iran has learned only one thing from the British in the last 200 years, it is the principle of "divide and rule."

Iranians are experts in many things, most of all in the art of beating down a price and buying cheap. In other words, experts believe that the nationalization of oil was a major turning point in relations between Iran and Britain. Of course it can be said that in a financial sense the Iranians came out as losers in that issue, but in terms of principles with regard to nationalizing their own oil and the destruction of an unfair agreement, it made and prepared the groundworks for the creation of OPEC.

As time went by, this principle of nationalizing primary natural resources in oil producing countries was established, and this could be considered a source of pride. In addition to this, the displayed by Iran in standing up to the biggest bully in the colonialist world had a considerable affect on the speedy end to that regime, which in turn turned dozens of colonies into independent states.

Although it may be to early to judge, there is no doubt that with the capture of the Nest of Spies, Iran made yet another revolutionary move which had major repercussions throughout the Third World and which has won some degree of sympathy from those countries. All in all, this action has special importance for Iran and is even regarded as a second revolution, so it was to a certain degree unavoidable. Iran has paid a high price for this action. The American retaliation in freezing Iranian assets, including arms which could have been used in the war against Iraq, and the $4 billion in funds had a major impact on this country's reconstruction effort.

Despite all this, it has gained a certain degree of deep-rooted self-confidence in the face of the superpowers. This growth in will and determination among the Iranian people is entirely appropriate in Iran's relations with the superpowers. It is worthy of note that since the Algeria accord between Iran and the United States, the Great Satan has not mentioned the incident, so perhaps it has learned a lesson from it. With regard to relations between Iran and Britain, the Chaplin incident—though we may consider it ugly and inexcusable—could be considered a retaliatory act, not only for the Qasemi incident but for 200 years of British bullying in this land.

The war of the embassies between Iran and France, the problems in relations between Iran and Italy and West Germany, and so forth are all signs of this new confidence which Iran gained after the revolution, especially following the capture of the Nest of Spies.

As we saw after 1953, Britain has not had an independent policy toward Iran. This means that in strategic affairs, especially after the CENTO agreement was drawn up, it has acted entirely in line with its Western allies. In trade affairs and even in arms' deals, it was as free as them and competed with them. But what about after the revolution? There is no doubt that Britain found out very quickly that the revolution had succeeded and that it had to come to terms with Islamic Iran somehow or other. This was the basic principle on which Britain based its policy with regard to Iran—at least in the first year after the revolution and even after Iranian revolutionary forces attacked the British Embassy.

But with the coming to power of Mrs Thatcher and the start of the Iran-Iraq war—in which Britain was neutral, at least for the first 5-6 years of the war—Thatcher thought of adopting a semi-hostile attitude toward Iran, which was encouraged by Ronald Reagan, who came to power soon after the war started. Britain maintained its policy of neutrality only in the military field, but on the political level its policies became more and more hostile toward Iran. Here there is an obvious difference between the policies of Britain and other members of the EEC.

However, from the start of this Iranian new year [March 21, 1988], and even before, Britain could have known about Iran's acceptance of resolution 598, or even predicted it, and was making an effort to renew the relations. What is the reason for this policy? There are perhaps two reasons. First of all, the United States had realized that its absence at this sensitive time in Iran is not in its interest. Second, Britain did not want to weaken its position in Iran by following its old hostile policies which had not produced any results, especially since other EEC countries were preparing themselves for a program of reconstruction in Iran, which in the first 5 years is estimated to cost $50 billion.

At the same time Britain cannot expect the normalization of ties to be so easy, in view of the events of the first few days after the embassy was opened, including the BBC interview with Reza Pahlavi and the weak British position on the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons. What will the new British policy be? Under present circumstances it is not easy for me to answer this question, but we can draw the general outlines. Since, according to Parsons, the Iranian people regard Britain as an old imperialist power, they will find it hard to forget the past. The main policy will be to try and change this idea in people's minds. Of course this will be impossible without complete sincerity and actions to prove that sincerity.

In his first interview after the embassy reopened the temporary charge d'affaires, Mr Gordon Pirie, said: I have come to Iran with a series of clear guidelines, and if there are any questions in this regard I will be glad to answer them. Yet he could not answer the simplest questions such as Britain's policy on resolution 598. It is clear as daylight that Pirie, who served in the embassy's commerical section between 1964 and 1968 and who visited Iran at the time of the International Trade Fair last September, had two main missions. One was to open the embassy and get it working again and the other to increase Britain's trade with Iran in the next Christian year.

With regard to political issues, we must conclude that either this policy has not been yet determined—which I doubt—or else Pirie, who is the charge d'affaires, does not know the first thing about politics. Even his 2 years' experience as press attache on the eve of the revolution is not enough for him to answer a simple, predictable and basic question from a reporter. The second assumption seems by far the stronger.

So it is obvious that the embassy's role in carrying out Britain's policy toward Iran will only be determined when the new ambassador arrives some time in the Iranian new year [March 21]. It is quite possible that Britain has sent someone politically naive like Pirie for the post, because after that interview it became obvious to everyone that Britain does have a policy toward Iran, even though that policy may not be defined yet. I feel that British officials have not reached a common view on this policy and they are waiting to see what Iran's goals will be, both inside and outside the country, and specially to see whether Iran, after the war—a war that did not end in defeat, but did not end in victory either—is willing and able to export its revolution.

Or will it limit itself to reconstruction? In the former scenario, the policies of the British Foreign Office hawks will prevail. And if Iran gives up its foreign adventures, especially in Lebanon and the Persian Gulf, they will follow Pirie-like policies, which are the same as those of Japan and most of the EEC countries. This means ignoring internal political realities.

Bearing in mind the tradition of British interference, it is worthy of note that the policies of the hawks will be influenced more from the outside and with complete coordination with the United States and other NATO allies. According to this policy, Iran will by now be surrounded. This means that its neighbors will receive more military aid so that they can defend themselves against Iran. The armies of all regional neighbors—those in the Persian Gulf, Pakistan, Turkey and perhaps soon enough Iraq—will receive more and more sophisticated weapons. If they do not have enough currency—as in the case of Turkey and Pakistan—these weapons will be sold on easy terms.

Military aid is always obvious but help in intelligence and counterterrorist measures are also important. In this regard there will be no shortages of British experts to help these regimes in such matters. It is clear that Britain has a good deal of influence in the intelligence outfits of some countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf—especially Kuwait, Dubai and Oman. This cooperation has increased over the past few years.

One prime example of this is the huge arms deal between London and Riyadh. Pakistan is extremely important in this strategy. The sending of (Barington) to the British Embassy in Islamabad shows that Britain sees the futures of Iran and Pakistan entwined. The U.S. deputy defense and foreign ministers' visit to Pakistan and Persian Gulf nations and Carlucci's current trip to this region at the end of a presidency, which is normally a slack period in politics, shows clearly that this policy has been fully and completely coordinated between Britain and the United States. Even the French defense minister's visit to this area is perhaps not unconnected.

It is interesting to note that not only does this policy not have adverse economic results, but, quite the contrary, it has many advantages for them, especially at a time when the rate of their exports is under pressure.

In terms of their direct military presence, one cannot expect there to be much decrease. Perhaps each side will pull out a couple of ships from the Persian Gulf, but it will not go away altogether. Perhaps it will remain at a considerably higher level than before the start of the war, and it is quite possible that the level of U.S. ground and air forces in the region will increase.

Unfortunately I do not have time to go into these interesting subjects any further. But it is my humble opinion that the British and U.S. policies toward Iran would be of mixed hostility and gentleness. The choice between the two is up to Iran.

The choice of the British ambassador to Iran, whose name will be announced some time in March, is very important. He will probably be a professional diplomat, doubtless someone first-rate like Parsons. This means someone very experienced and accepted by Mrs Thatcher who will be able to make day-to-day decisions without referring to London for advice.

He must also be a natural leader among the other European ambassadors, because coordination with the others with regard to carrying out a hostile policy—which could include economic sanctions if Britain and the United States consider this necessary—is a must. Of course none of the Western countries wants to carry out this policy, but in their view Iran is a potentially dangerous enemy which must not be granted any further leeway. Therefore a very close eye must be kept on Iran's policies, especially those with regard to Muslim countries. [end Cooper letter]

Some necessary points:

1. It must be noted that the period Mr Cooper talks about is in fact the same period when the West, headed by the Great Satan, pinned its hopes on the liberals and its own internal elements. According to the documents discovered at the Nest of Spies, it expected a moderate and pro-Western government to take control in Iran. So we cannot believe Cooper's claim that if Mrs Thatcher's rivals had remained in power "fairer" relations would have existed. On the contrary, from the time the United States decided it had to increase its hostility against the Islamic revolution, following the removal of the liberals, the British coordinated with them.

2. One point must be added to Mr Cooper's remarks, namely, that for the British the "flag" comes after "finance." This means that this old colonialist is seeking its old political, strategic, and espionage goals, wanting to enter through commercial doors. By the way, in the same period that Mr Cooper mentions, Britain was not ready to display its goodwill.

3. Cooper has not forgotten his threatening tone, even from inside a prison. Coordination of policies between Britain and the United States is quite obvious. Both regard the exportation of the revolution as "terrorism" and "fundamentalism" and this is how they portray it to the world. This is quite obvious in Cooper's choice of words. The Great Satan also believes that if Iran stops trying to export its revolution it wants to establish ties, and this is what Britain wants too.

Khamene'i Congratulates Kuwaiti Amir Al-Sabah

LD3101114289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] A message of congratulations was sent by President Khamene'i to Kuwaiti amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, on the occasion of Kuwaiti independence anniversary.

According to IRNA the message was submitted by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait to the head of court of the Kuwaiti amir.

Further on Visit by CSSR Prime Minister Adamec

Talks With Shafe'i

LD3001184989 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Czech Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec today discussed with Industries Minister Gholam Reza Shafe'i Tehran-Prague industrial cooperation particularly the setting up of hydro-electric power stations, cement, rubber and sugar plants.

Adamec, referring to the two countries' friendly ties, noted that he was here for talks with officials on the future of bilateral cooperation.

Shafe'i welcomed cooperation with Czechoslovakia in the fields of cement, rubber, sugar and ceramic industries, and proposed "other trade methods besides traditional ones, to expand mutual economic ties."

Earlier Monday [30 January], the Czech premier and his entourage inspected the various sections of 'Iran-Khodro' auto complex which manufactures cars, vans, buses and mini-buses.

Adamec discussed with the plant's officials export of Iranian-made automobiles to Czechoslovakia and exchange of technical data on producing cars and heavy machinery.

The Czech premier heading a high ranking delegation arrived in Tehran Sunday at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

Confers With Khamene'i

LD3001185689 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 30 Jan 89

[text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i told visiting Czech Premier Ladislav Adamec Monday that the Islamic Republic has always viewed East European states as potential colleagues.

Hoj. Khamene'i welcoming the strengthening of Tehran-Prague ties, noted the wide grounds for expansion of mutual cooperation.

"We always welcome visits by high-ranking officials from the outside world," he reiterated.

Adamec briefed President Khamene'i on his meetings with Iranian officials since his arrival yesterday, and termed the outcome of talks as "fruitful."

He announced Prague's keenness for cooperation in Iran's post-war rehabilitation projects.

Adamec is here heading a high-powered delegation, and held the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi Sunday shortly after landing in Tehran.

Further on Khamene'i Meeting

NC3101101589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i last night. During this meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the Czechoslovak prime minister conveyed warm and friendly greetings from his president, Mr Gustav Husak, to Mr Khamene'i and briefed the president on the most recent outcome of his discussions with our officials. Announcing his country's readiness to participate in our country's reconstruction, he called for further expansion of relations and cooperation between Iran and Czechoslovakia in all fields. He described the objective of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as emphasis on the (?need) to expand relations.

President Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the friendly message from the Czechoslovak president and welcomed the deepening and expanding of the two countries' relations. He said: There are many areas in which the two countries can increase their cooperation, and serious efforts should be made to identify many other areas in which we can cooperate. This will undoubtedly help to expand the two countries' manifold relations.

Stressing that after its victory in the Islamic Revolution, Iran has always regarded the countries in Eastern Europe as potential partners, the president said: the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to remain unknown to some countries, and more opportunities are needed so that our cultural attitudes and our society's potential can be known. We welcome visits by high-ranking officials to our country so that such opportunities can be created.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC3101101489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Czechoslovak prime minister, Mr Ladislav Adamec, who is in our country as the head of a political-economic delegation, met with Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday evening. During this meeting, which was also attended by Messrs Mo'ayyeri and Larijani, a number of Majlis deputies, and officials of our Foreign Ministry, the Czechoslovak prime minister referred to the 60 years of relations between the two countries and said: The objective behind our visit is to exchange views on political and international issues and to expand political and economic relations.

Commenting on the closeness of the two countries' views on international issues, Mr Adamec remarked on the chemical weapons conference in Paris: We do not manufacture or store chemical weapons in our country, and we seriously support the ban on the use of such weapons.

The Chechoslovak prime minister expressed his country's readiness to participate in Iran's reconstruction, in the transfer of technology, and in cultural cooperation. He also invited Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Czechoslovakia on behalf of the chairman of his country's Federal Assembly.

During this meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the existence of areas for cooperation between the two countries and stated: Our people have no bitter memories of their relations with your country, and undoubtedly there are no obstacles barring the expansion of cooperation between the two countries. I believe that we do not have any important difference of views with you as far as world issues are concerned.

The Majlis speaker referred to the closeness of the two countries' views on the banning of chemical weapons. Expressing his (?doubts) about the goodwill of the advocators of the movement to ban chemical weapons, he said: The view that some countries in the world have the right to own chemical weapons while other countries may not have such weapons cannot be correct. If they are sincere about the danger of chemical weapons, then they should first destroy their own chemical weapons. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: If a serious step against chemical weapons is not taken in the world today, then the countries of the world will gain access to such weapons and will then proceed to biological weapons. This is extremely dangerous as far as the health of mankind is concerned.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then commented: In the war, we witnessed how Iraq was armed with chemical weapons by these powers and how the Iraqi officials themselves confessed to having received such weapons or to having received assistance in manufacturing such weapons.

He then expressed mistrust toward the call for peace by the big powers and stated: These powers seriously propounded the issue of ending the war and of establishing peace between the two countries when facts showed that Iran was achieving victory in the war. However, after the acceptance of the resolution, that seriousness on establishing peace in the region has not been seen. After the acceptance of the resolution, the countries that advocate peace continue to maintain their original sincerity with Iraq instead of confronting Iraq's efforts to avoid peace.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly for his invitation to visit that country. Accepting the invitation, he expressed hopes to visit these countries [as heard] at a suitable time.

Attends Banquet

LD3001211389 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—So long as international circles fail to adopt a realistic and serious stance on the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598, the future of peace and detente in the region will not be clarified, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Monday.

The premier said "a more serious approach to the issue by world countries is a big test for them to show their love for peace and justice."

Musavi, speaking at a banquet he gave here Monday in honor of his Czech counterpart Ladislav Adamec, called for further expansion of Tehran-Prague relations in various fields.

He cited the practice of apartheid in South Africa, the massacre of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims by the Zionist regime, downing of an Iranian passenger plane in the Persian Gulf and of two Libyan fighter jets (by the U.S.), the aggression on Grenada as examples of "atrocities" committed by the big powers.

The prime minister made it clear that "such atrocities perpetrated by big powers are posing a serious threat to world peace and tranquility."

Referring to the Iraqi regime's repeated use of outlawed chemical weapons, Musavi warned that the lack of an adequate international measure to prevent the repetition of such crimes will threaten the world community.

On Afghanistan's future, Musavi said once all foreign forces withdraw from that country, big powers should not only stop their interferences but should recognize any popular government that will be formed by Afghan Muslims.

Musavi, lashing out at the regime occupying Palestine for its suppression of Palestinian Muslims and its aggression on southern Lebanon, urged world governments to condemn such crimes and prevent their repetition in the future.

The Czech premier also delivered a speech on the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries. He said Czechoslovakia as an industrialized country is ready to help Iran with its rehabilitation projects.

Adamec who is here at the head of a high-ranking delegation held the first round of talks with Musavi shortly after his arrival Sunday and today he met President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis speaker Akbar Rafsanjani today.

CSSR's Jan Sterba Meets With Ministers

LD3001203689 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Trade Jan Sterba held separate meetings with ministers of energy, industries, and defense to discuss Tehran-Prague cooperation, Monday.

Sterba reviewed technical cooperation with Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, including the setting up of power stations in Iran.

With Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i, he discussed the two countries' cooperation in sugar, rubber, textile and leather industries.

Later in the day, the Czech official called on Defense Minister Brigadier Mohammed Hoseyn Jalali.

Jan Sterba is part of the high-powered Czechoslovak delegation headed by Premier Ladislav Adamec which arrived yesterday.

Commentary Assesses Situation in Afghanistan

LD2801140289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1048 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Political commentary entitled: The USSR Defense Minister's Visit to Kabul and the Crisis of the Embassies]

[Text] In the last remaining days of the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, reports tell of a greater degree of tension governing the situation in that country. Fighting between Afghan mujahidin and the occupying forces and the Kabul regime in the Salang pass, which links Kabul to the Soviet border, is continuing. This is the location where, according to eyewitness reports, the joint Soviet-Kabul regime forces, destroyed all the residential areas south of the Salang pass, and ran over the bodies of the victims that remained along the pass.

On the other hand, according to claims by PRAVDA, the organ of the Soviet Communist Party, the Kabul government forces in Qandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan, were encircled by the Afghan mujahidin. The situation in Kabul, too, seems to look like those prevailing in Qandahar and Jalalabad. Meanwhile, Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov arrived in Kabul Friday [27 January]. Yazov's visit to Kabul, the duration of which is not yet known, though appearing to have been motivated by the existing difficulties faced by Afghanistan, demonstrates that Moscow has chosen a military solution, finally, to arrive at its strategic objectives in Afghanistan.

According to political observers, following the negotiations carried out on the formation of Afghanistan's future government, which lead to a deadlock because of the unrealistic insistences of Kremlin officials, the continuation of the war in that country, notably in Kabul, is a certain outcome. The continuation of war and bloodshed in Kabul, the grounds for which have been prepared now with the Soviet Union sending a large amount of arms and weapons to the Najibullah regime and its supporters, appears to enjoy the support and backing of the United States and its Western allies.

In this connection, the crisis that has overtaken the embassies in Kabul, is, in truth, a way of preparing for an atrocious and uncontrolled killing of Kabul residents by the communist extremists who support the military solution to the Afghanistan problem. Because of this, political observers explained the evacuation of foreign embassy employees on U.S. advice as a new phase in the intensification of the psychological warfare against the Afghan mujahidin, which is in cooperation with the Soviet line.

The mujahidin leaders, during the last remaining days of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, which is now being realized because of their breathless struggles against the occupiers, feel that the East and West have arrived at certain agreements concerning the elimination of Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity. To this end, it is being predicted that, with the continuation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan after the Soviet troops have left, which is being (?fomented) through international conspiracies, Afghanistan's independence will be endangered. In this respect, the Afghan mujahidin have always condemend foreign intervention, the final aim of which is the stationing of peace-keeping forces in that country, and evaluate this in terms of a move toward their country's partition.

This conspiracy is not possible except by sowing discord among the Afghan resistance groups. In view of this, the Afghan mujahidin, under the present sensitive conditions, are determined to invest everything possible to prevent the appearance of any differences. The establishment of a government that is compatible with the desires of the Afghan Muslim people, based on free elections, can act as an important step in the trend of true independence and the Islamic identity of Afghanistan, after victory.

The thing that is highly vital for the future of Afghanistan is the establishment of a government that corresponds the votes of the Muslim people and preserves national unity in that country. For such a destiny-making event to be realized, evidently, the last steps of the resistance will be very crucial for the mujahidin and the people of Afghanistan. In view of this, greater alertness in the political sphere can complete victory in the military sphere.

IRGC Minister Returns From Visit to Pakistan

LD2701222789 Tehran IRNA in English 2057 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA—Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, 'Ali Sham'khani arrived in Tehran Friday at end of a week-long visit to Islamabad where he conferred with Pakistani and military officials on Iran- Pakistan border security.

At an interview at the airport here Sham'khani said Iran and Pakistan will shortly build "an important part of the Islamic defence wall" for which purpose he had visited the neighboring country, but he did not elaborate. He said his visit to the country was the first "politically charged foreign development for IRGC."

A group of IRGC sub-commanders, and Majlis deputies accompanied the IRGC minister in his visit to Islamabad.

Foreign Media Coverage of UNIIMOG Reported

LD2801182589 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Jan 28 IRNA—A group of foreign reporters and cameramen Friday filed reports and filmed the activities of United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) forces at one of the southern border bases.

They also took notes of the Iraqi regime's trail of destruction in Abadan and Khorramshahr in this southwestern province.

UNIIMOG commanded by Yugoslav Maj Gen Slavko Jovic monitors the Iran-Iraq armistice in effect since August 20, 1988, after Iran accepted Resolution 598 of U.N. Security Council in July.

The two countries' started the first round of face-to-face peace talks in Geneva on August 25, but today after three such fruitless rounds, the Iraqi regime has yet to observe the next article of 598 which calls for withdrawal of forces to pre-war borders.

Industries Minister on GDR Commercial Relations

LD3001214889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] On the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the German Democratic Republic, the volume of commercial transactions between the two countries will amount to 300 million dollars for the year 1989.

Industries Minister Shafe'i announced this during an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit correspondent this morning and indicated that the third session of the Iran-GDR joint commission ended with the signing of an important memorandumn of understanding. He added: The framework for commercial relations between the two countries is in barter form and payment is made through the sale of products by abandoning the single-commodity economy and exporting nonoil products. In addition, Iran will export more than one million tons of oil to East Germany and the rest of the exports will include nonoil goods.

Mir Salim Leaves for Venezuela Inauguration

LD3001115589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Texrt] According to the Central News Unit, Mir Salim, the president's chief adviser, left for Venezuela this morning at the head of a delegation of Foreign Ministry officials. The delegation will participate in the presidential inauguration ceremonies on behalf of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Mohtashemi Leaves for Turkey, Anti-Drug Visit

LD3001185389 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami left for Ankara at the head of a delegation Monday.

Interviewed before departure, Mohtashami said that during his five-day visit, he would discuss with Turkish officials such issues as unauthorized cross-border traffic, interests of the two countries' citizens, and coordination for the anti-drug campaign.

The anti-drug campaign was possible only through international cooperation he said and placed special emphasis on coordination among neighbouring countries. "Drug trafficking can be effectively tackled by way of coordinated measures among regional states," he added.

A total of 96 death merchants have been sent to the gallows since the anti-narcotics law took effect on January 21. It calls for death penalty for anyone found possessing 30 grams or 5 kg of opium.

During his stay in Ankara, the interior minister will hold talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, several other ministers and probably President Kenan Evren.

Mohtashami, questioned on the probability of his visit to Pakistan for coordination in the anti-drug campaign, replied "I hope we can break new grounds of cooperation with our neighbors and it is natural that Pakistan, like Turkey, should be given priority."

Hoj. Mohtashami is accompanied by the imam's representative and Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC) Hojj ol-Eslam Serajeddin Musavi, Gendarmerie Commander Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Sohrabi, Police Chief Brig.-Gen. Reza Niknezhad and a number of gendarmerie, Interior Ministry, and IRC officials.

Meets With Turgut Ozal

LD3001203189 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Ankara, Jan. 30, IRNA—Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami arrived here Monday [30 January], and met Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal.

Formal talks between the two countries' political delegations led by Mohtashami and his Turkish counterpart Mustafa Kalemli are to start tomorrow.

The two will discuss coordination as regards anti-drug campaign, border security, activities of Iranian anti-revolutionaries in Turkey, the struggle against terrorism and consular affairs.

Mohtashami and his entourage are to stay here for four days.

Oil Official Comments on Tanker Fleet, Gulf War

LD3001172889 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Iran's oil tanker fleet of 68 vessels has sailed a total of 1,800,000 nautical miles since 1983, carrying 360,000 tons of crude, a senior official said here Monday [30 January].

Mohammad Suri, the managing-director of Iran's national oil tanker company, said the fleet, in addition to carrying two million barrels of oil per day over the same period, brought to the country 200,000 to 250,000 barrels of oil products daily.

On crude exports, the official said, 34 oil tankers owned or hired by Iran carry 1,081 million barrels of daily oil exports.

He said the company presently owns 69 tankers which are deployed for transporting and stockpiling oil, ferrying services to Iran's off-shore oil fields in the Persian Gulf and sailing on overseas voyages.

A large number of the company's personnel, studying at marine colleges at home and abroad, will gradually replace foreign experts in the tanker fleet, he said.

Adverting to the Iraqi-imposed war, the official said "a total of 300 oil tankers were attacked, 192 of which were owned or hired by Iran." "150 seamen including 23 Iranians were killed in the so-called war of tankers in the Persian Gulf," he added.

Iran lost only five oil tankers during almost eight years of Iraqi aggression, which is "quite insignificant considering the extent of services rendered by the tanker fleet under heavy enemy attacks," he said.

"Iran's national oil tankers fleet carried out the greatest oil operations in the world's contemporary history," said Suri referring to the imposed war, and noted "the fleet ranks 1st in OPEC, 3rd among international oil companies and 12th in the world."

He paid tribute to the Iran Insurance Company for having insured oil tankers sailing to the Persian Gulf during the war "at a very low premium, one tenth of that charged by international insurance companies."

Refineries Increase Production

LD2801134589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Abadan refinery's torch will once again be illuminated, following the commissioning of the first boiler of the refinery, during the 10 Days of Dawn period [anniversary of the Islamic Revolution]. Simultaneously, the Bakhtaran refinery will also become operational, with twice its nominal capacity.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent, the manager of the refinery section of the Iranian National Oil Company, having announced the above, today presented a report on the developments in the reconstruction of the refinery, and said: Even though, in addition to the Abadan refinery, the five other existing refineries in the country came under intense shelling a total of 30 times, hence halting the refining process for a while, the staff at the oil industry, despite the technical and industrial intricacies of the refineries and the air and missile attacks, managed to reconstruct the damage-stricken refineries of the country throughout those attacks.

He said: Although the nominal capacity of the five existing refineries in the country comprised of Esfahan, Shiraz, Tehran, Tabriz, Bakhtaran, and also the Lavan refineries complex, total 580,000 barrels per day, following the alterations made at these refineries during their reconstruction, the production capacity of the oil products has increased to above 45 percent of their nominal capacity, hence bringing the production capacity of the country's active oil refineries to an amount greater than that which was produced in the pre-war period.

He added: The Bakhtaran refinery, which has a nominal capacity of 15,000 barrels per day, will resume its operation with a capacity of 30,000 barrels per day.

In conclusion he said: The reconstruction of the Abadan refinery and the other refineries in the country, has been carried out without any foreign assistance. Using the efforts of the refinery staff, and with the sole aid of domestic capabilities.

Pakistan

Foreign Office: Soviets May Leave Kabul by 4 Feb

BK3101101589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that information thus far received indicates that the Soviet troops will leave the Afghan capital, Kabul, by 4 February. The deadline for the Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan is 15 February. The spokesman expressed the hope that the deadline will be met.

Answering a question, the spokesman expressed confidence that after the pullout of the Soviet troops there will be no civil war in Afghanistan and that an interim government will be established by 15 February. Pakistan desires to see Afghanistan emerging as an Islamic, united, and nonaligned country, he added.

Spokesman Discusses Upcoming Shevardnadze's Visit

BK3001155089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Government of Pakistan is in touch with the Afghan alliance on the formation of a broad-based consultative group of Afghans to work for a representative government in Afghanistan. [passage omitted].

On the return of the former king of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah, the spokesman said it is up to the people of Afghanistan to decide about the matter.

On the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to Pakistan, the spokesman said it is expected that he will exchange views with Pakistani leaders on bilateral relations and the situation in Afghanistan. However, it is not known what the special topic of discussion will be. So far there has been no request from either side for a meeting between Shevardnadze and the mujahidin.

The spokesman said that the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Japan from 24 February to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito will be brief. No date has yet been set. However, there is a possibility the prime minister will meet with U.S. President George Bush and other world leaders who will be present there on that occasion.

Three 'Pro-Moscow' Exiles Return From Kabul

BK2801050489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2010 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 27 (AFP)—Three pro-Moscow Pakistani politicians who took refuge in Afghanistan following differences with Islamabad returned here Friday [27 January] after almost 15 years of self-imposed exile in Kabul.

Two of the returnees, Ajmal Khattak and Haji Jumma Khan, sought asylum in Afghanistan after former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto dissolved pro-Moscow provincial governments in the provinces of Baluchistan and North West Frontier.

Mr. Khattak, an advocate of an independent "Pakhtoonistan" for ethnic Pathans, admitted upon arrival at Peshawar airport that the situation in Afghanistan was "tense," but denied this had anything to do with their return.

"We could have taken shelter in some other countries," he said, adding they had returned to Pakistan to support its new democratic government.

Mr. Jumma Khan, who married during his exile the daughter of Afghanistan's tribal and nationalities affairs minister Sulayman Ali La'eq, was a former lecturer at the engineering university in Peshawar.

The late Mr. Bhutto, father of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, took military action against supporters of the so-called Pakhtoonistan state in 1974.

Kabul's backing of establishing an independent Pakhtoonistan state carved out of Pakistan's Pushto-speaking North West Frontier Province has been a major irritant in Afghan-Pakistani relations.

Both Moscow and New Delhi used the threat of Pakhtoonistan to destabilise successive governments in Pakistan. Press reports have said Kabul's Soviet-backed government has set up training camps for exiles.

Pakistan backs Afghan resistance rebels fighting Kabul and Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Observers said these exiles would coordinate with other parties to promote leftist politics in Pakistan.

Bhutto To Lead Delegation to Hirohito Funeral

BK2901161889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, will lead Pakistan's delegation at the funeral of Emperor Hirohito of Japan. The funeral will be held in Tokyo on 24 February.

Yaqub Khan Discusses Talks in Saudi Arabia

BK3001162989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have identical views on the nature of the Afghanistan situation. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this evening on his return from Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said after disengagement of Soviet troops there will be a problem of reconstruction and humanitarian aid in which Saudi Arabia takes great interest. He said he briefed the Saudi foreign minister regarding formation of the consultative council, which is to be convened on the 10th of next month to be followed by the completion of disengagement and withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The Afghan situation will be discussed also with the Iranian foreign minister, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, who is arriving in Islamabad tomorrow.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan exchanged views on the forthcoming meeting of the ICO foreign ministers, which is to take place in Riyadh in the middle of March. They also touched on relations between Iran and Iraq after the end of the war, as well as relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Islamic Alliance To Join Baluchistan Government

BK2801035489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance parliamentary group in the National Assembly, has said that his alliance will join the coalition government in Baluchistan. He told a news conference in Lahore yesterday that the Islamic Democratic Alliance has signed an agreement without any precondition with the Baluchistan National Alliance and

Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam. He said that Mir Jam Yusuf will be the leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance parliamentary group in the Baluchistan Assembly.

Bhutto Appoints Three Special Assistants

BK2801161489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Three special assistants to the prime minister have been appointed. They are Mr M.D. Khan, special assistant on political affairs; Dr Mansur Ahmad A. Sheikh, special assistant on overseas Pakistani affairs and science and technology; and Mr Gulzar Khan, special assistant on provincial affairs coordination, honorary. They will have the rank and status of federal ministers.

Sri Lanka

Bombs Thrown at UNP Candidate's Office

BK3101092589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0834 GMT 31 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 31 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—One person was killed and 3 others seriously wounded when an unidentified armed gang lobbed 2 time bombs and opened fire with automatic weapons at an election office of a UNP candidate in Weligama 145 kilometres south of Colombo in Sri Lanka's Southern Province yesterday. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the 3 injured persons are now under emergency surgery treatment at the Matara hospital.

5 Policemen Killed in 'Subversive' Attacks

BK2901112289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0845 GMT 29 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—A massive cordon and search operation launched by police supported by army commandos resulted in the recovery of four S-84 rifles and a vehicle robbed by subversives in last night's attacks on two police stations in the city of Colombo and one on its northern outskirts.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the subversives responsible for the attack on the Bambalapitiya police station were encountered by a mobile police patrol at Grandpass in Colombo North who opened fire causing the terrorists to abandon the vehicle and the two weapons they had robbed and flee.

Meanwhile, Army commandos, who moved in to the Ragama area after the attack on the Ragama police station, recovered two S-84 rifles.

Five policemen and a civilian, a messboy, were killed in the subversives' attacks on the Bambalapitiya, Mattakuliya police posts and the Ragama police station.

5 Soldiers Killed

BK2901131389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, three soldiers of the Peacekeeping Force have been killed in Trincomalee District when they were fired upon by the militants. In Jaffna sector, one militant was killed, one injured, and three others were apprehended. In Southern Province, a mobile patrol was attacked by suspected subversives this morning. Two Sri Lankan soldiers lost their lives in this incident. In isolated incidents elsewhere in the country, at least four persons, including two UNP supporters, were killed yesterday.

Security Measures Result in Fewer Killings

BK2801113289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0900 GMT 28 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—With Sri Lanka's security forces putting into operation tight preventive measures supported by public organizations, there was a dramatic drop in grievous crime and the murder rate dropped by 65 percent during the last 24 hours.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 20 killings were reported islandwide up to 0600 hours (local time) today as against 54 during the previous 24 hours.

The security forces have been ordered to deal firmly with anti-democratic saboteurs who are attempting to destabilize the law and order situation in the run up to 15 February election.

In the north, too, only one killing was reported, that of a Central Reserve policeman of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], murdered by the LTTE terrorists who are making a futile attempt to disrupt the elections.